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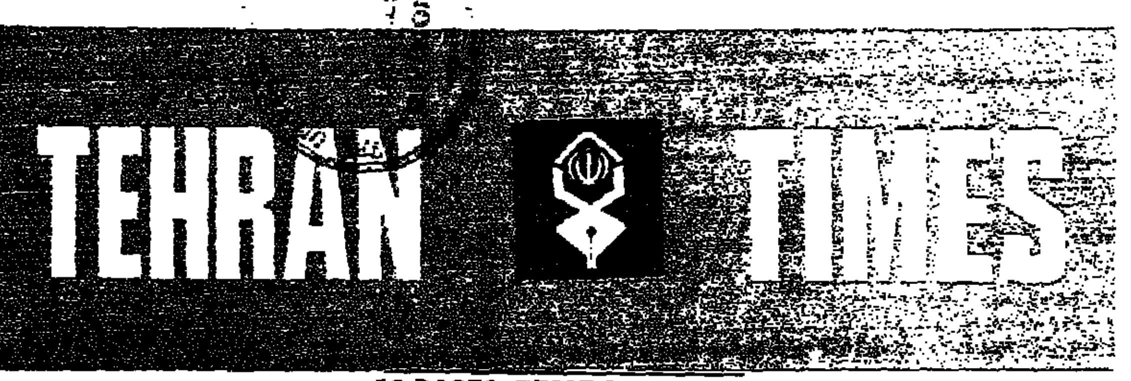


Misuari Warns Failure to Expand Autonomy Will Lead to War

PAGADIAN, Philippines — The Philippines could face a flare-up in a separatist war if a Muslim autonomous area is not expanded, a Muslim leader warned in a speech released Saturday.

Nur Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) said "We must meet the expectations of the people so that they (government) will not make a mistake."

(Contd on Pg. 14)



16 PAGES, PRICE 200 RIALS
VOL. XIX; 91; SUNDAY JULY 27, 1997; MORDAD 4, 1376; RABIUL-AWAL 21, 1418

Lebanese Woman Injured in Israeli Shell Attack

RASHAYA, Lebanon — A Lebanese woman was wounded in an Israeli bombardment in South Lebanon on Saturday.

Mariam Sobh, 60, was injured by fragments from a shell which fell on Sohmor, around 10 kilometers (six miles) outside the eastern sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Turkish Generals Press Government to Fight Islamism

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's powerful military made clear Friday it is keeping up the pressure for a government crackdown on Islamism.

A statement issued after the first National Security Council meeting between the new government and the country's top generals said all council members were determined to implement measures against radical Islamic activities.

The statement did not elaborate.

It was the former, Islamic government's resistance to enact such measures that angered the military and led to its demise last month. The military regards itself as the protector of this predominantly Muslim country's secular traditions.

The new government under Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz has already proposed legislation to scale down religious education, along the lines of a military order back in February that was resisted by then-Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Anti-Taleban Forces Launch Jet, Artillery Strikes on Kabul

TAJIKS, HAZARAS BEING HELD IN KABUL

KABUL — Opposition forces maintained military pressure on Kabul with jet and artillery bombardments Saturday, while calling for a Taleban militia pullout from the capital, witnesses reported.

In a statement the United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UIFSA) called on the Taleban militia "to demilitarize Kabul" so that issues like a ceasefire and exchange of prisoners could be negotiated.

UIFSA, whose troops have advanced to within rocket range of Kabul city, have also kept up jet attacks against the Taleban militants who have occupied the Afghan capital for exactly 10 months.

"Just minutes after a jet raid this morning, rockets landed in Qalai Moosa and south of Khair Khana Pass," witnesses told AFP.

At 7:45 a.m. (0315 GMT) antiaircraft fire signalled the presence of an anti-Taleban jet but the frontlines 25 kilometers (15 miles) distant, and not the city itself, appeared to be the target.

The early incoming rockets reportedly exploded in Qalai Moosa, south of the airport, and near the foot of the northwestern Khair Khan Pass where the so-called Old Road exits Kabul to the frontlines.

More rockets thundered into Kabul just before 10:30 a.m. (0500 GMT) and a salvo of at least eight exploded in the vicinity of the airport sending huge plumes of dust and debris skyward.

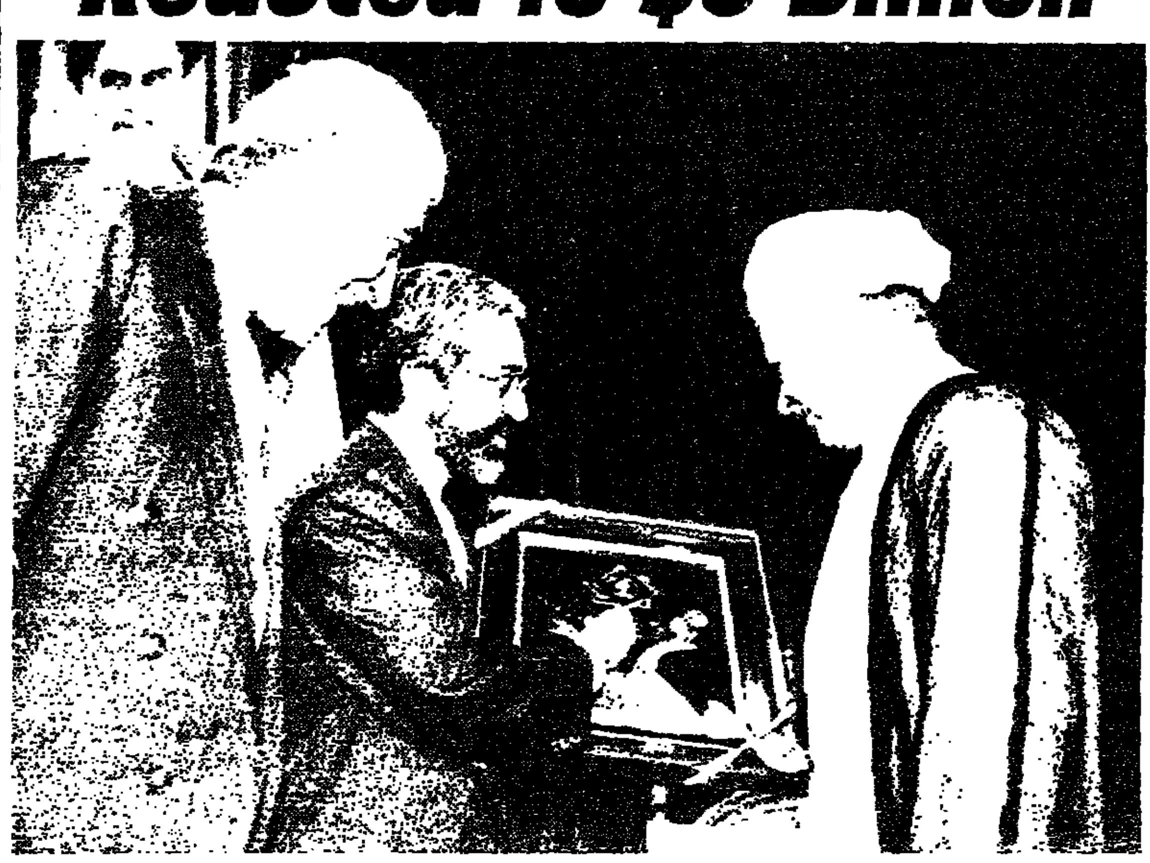
Journalists are prevented by Taleban guards at the Khair Khana checkpost from visiting the frontline fighting, which makes independent verification of often conflicting claims very difficult.

The bulk of the expatriate humanitarian aid community has evacuated Kabul by road for the Pakistani border, as opposition forces were poised to close in on the capital.

The United Nations, ICRC and foreign humanitarian aid workers in the health and medical sectors have stayed in Kabul, where Pakistan still maintains the only functioning diplomatic mission.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

President: Iran's Debts Reduced to $6 Billion



TEHRAN (July 26): Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohsen Nourbakhsh (C) explains the details of the plaque of honor which was awarded to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani by the country's economic sector. Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Morteza Mohammad Khan (L) accompanies Nourbakhsh. The plaque was awarded to the president during a special ceremony here in a bid to appreciate his relentless efforts during the construction era. Photo: Mojtaba Takin

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed appreciation for the basic role played by Iranian banks in financing reconstruction projects, in an address to bankers here on Saturday.

In a meeting with directors and managers of state-owned banks, the president said the progress made by the country today as a result of current reconstruction programs are tangible and undeniable, owing to the high-level management of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said banks have taken part in the infrastructural investments, adopted measures to attract public confidence and deposits and managed to transform the negative trends in financial sectors to positve.

President Rafsanjani said all the projects that were considered far-reaching at the early stage of the reconstruction era are now yielding fruits.

"The economic stability in Iran has served to neutralize the political pressures being exerted on Iran and the reduction in dependence upon foreign countries as well as the current self-reliance and independence have served to enable our nation to follow its goals in accordance with the values of the Islamic Revolution," President Rafsanjani pointed out.

Referring to the anti-Iran policy of the U.S., President Rafsanjani said the failure of the U.S. Congress's plan to exert pressure on Iran indicated the economic strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Iran's balance of payments, the president said Iran's debts have been reduced to six billion dollars, indicating the manufacturing capability of the country.

Before the president's speech, minister of finance and economic affairs, Morteza Mohammad

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Leghari Hopeful Ties With India Will Improve

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Leghari said in a message to the new Indian president Saturday he was confident the two countries would move toward tension-free relations.

"I feel confident that with political commitment and sincerity of

(Contd on Pg. 14)

NEW DELHI, India (July 24): Kocheril Raman Narayanan waves from a horse-drawn coach in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) shortly before taking the oath of office as President of India at Parliament House in New Delhi. His victory has been interpreted as a triumph for India's so-called Hindu "untouchables" — today referred to as Dalits ("Oppressed") - who feature at the bottom of the Hindu social scale. (AFP PHOTO)

Algerian Zouabri "Well and Truly Dead"

ALGIERS — Algeria's most-wanted activist, Antar Zouabri, is "well and truly dead," despite claims by his followers that he is still alive and fighting, a major independent newspaper said on Saturday.

El Watan, quoting sources in the security forces, said it had solid confirmation that the leader of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) was cornered and killed in a fight with the army this week.

"This was affirmed to us yesterday (Friday), in categoric fashion, members of the security services at the scene of operations," it said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Protest Strike Hits Kashmir ahead of Indian PM's Visit

GUJRAL OFFERS PEACE TALKS

SRINAGAR, India — A strike called by Muslim separatists in Kashmir ahead of a visit of Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral crippled life in the Himalayan region on Saturday, witnesses and police said.

Shops, businesses and offices were shut in Srinagar following the general strike enforced by the All Party Freedom Conference, an umbrella forum of Kashmiri guerrilla and political organizations, they said.

The conference has urged residents to boycott Gujral's maiden two-day visit to the troubled state because of alleged atrocities committed by Indian soldiers in Kashmir.

Roads remained deserted but hundreds of soldiers and police lined the streets to prevent protests and violence during the visit, the witnesses said.

A similar shutdown was also ordered by the militants elsewhere in Kashmir.

The conference has said Gu-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Condolences

The staff of the Tehran Times send their heartfelt condolences to Kambakhsh Khalaji on the death of his beloved one, Hajj Manouchehr Afyooni. May his soul rest in peace.

Editor

TEHRAN TIMES

TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5
Distribution & Subscription
Department, Tel: 8808895
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437
8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR
224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
ISSN 1017-9410
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Kayhan

In the Name of God

But if you turn back, I did not ask for any reward from you; my reward is only with Allah, and I am commanded that I should be of those who submit.

(HOLY QORAN) (10:72)

OPINION

A Human Catastrophe Is Looming Large

The human rights group Amnesty International, in a statement published in London on Friday, expressed concern about the imprisonment of some 2,000 Afghan civilians by the Taleban militia.

The statement stressed that most of the detainees were non-combatants and had been picked up at their homes in the Afghan capital Kabul and its suburbs, adding that they were being held in prison in deplorable conditions and that some had experienced ill treatment in detention.

The human rights group, in its press release, also noted that most of the prisoners were breadwinners and were being held by the Taleban to intimidate the rest of the community and discourage family members from joining anti-Taleban forces outside the capital. The group concluded its statement by calling for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the detainees.

This is not the Taleban's first inhuman treatment of the Afghan citizens, and the Amnesty International's statement is not the first international condemnation of their brutal behavior either. In fact, the Taleban, ever since coming to power some two and a half years ago, have frequently committed such malicious acts.

In other words, heinous crimes and bloodshed, razing the residential units to the ground, imposing inhumane restrictions on the citizens, promoting the use of narcotics, shamelessly betraying their homeland, blatantly telling lies, ethnic and religious discrimination and the similar measures have turned out to be the main characteristics of the Taleban militia.

Presently, the popular discontent with the Taleban's rule is greatly boosting the morale of the United Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan, giving a fresh impetus to their military campaign to oust the Taleban.

However, given the brutality and gloomy human rights record of Taleban and considering that they are currently under heavy military pressure, there are fears that the extremist militia may resort to a desperate and dastardly move and bring about a human catastrophe.

If the Taleban are so uncivilized as to imprison 2,000 innocent civilians belonging to other ethnic groups merely to intimidate the community and discourage family members from joining the opposition, it would not be surprising if, under more pressure, they execute these 2,000 civilians as well as thousands of others just for not submitting to the militia.

Unfortunately, due to the United States' covert support for the Taleban, their atrocious crimes have not been given enough coverage by the world media. Even worse, some regional friends of the United States are providing the Taleban with the military and economic aid.

The U.S. support for this extremist group constitutes a flat contradiction of the human rights slogans chanted by the White House officials. Interestingly, the United States uses labels such as extremism, racism, violation of human rights, lack of religious tolerance and the like in order to isolate a government that refuses to submit to its diktat.

Now, the White House officials should answer which of these labels does not apply to the Taleban. As it has already been revealed that the militia deserves all these labels, how can the United States justify its support for them?

As a matter of fact, if the world had responded strongly to the double-standard policies of the United States, particularly to its support for the occupier regime in Israel, the White House would not have supported antisocial and dictatorial governments in Algeria and Afghanistan, as it may be the case tomorrow in Turkey and other countries in the world.

Still, it is not too late! Let us join forces to save the innocent civilians in Afghanistan, who are on the verge of a holocaust and who are looking to us for humanitarian support, from the blood-stained claws of the savage Taleban.

The onus is mainly on the international bodies to prevent this ferocious massacre and take strong action against antisocial elements in Afghanistan and their supporters. Their procrastination and inaction will surely set the precedent for grosser violations of human rights and more bloodshed in the future.

Salamati Predicts Smooth Cabinet Confirmation in Majlis

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Secretary General of the Islamic Revolution's Mojahedeen Organization, Mohammad Salamati said here Saturday that the Cabinet of the president-elect, Mohammad Khatami, would be confirmed in Majlis with no difficulty, IRNA reported.

Stating that his organization has not yet come up with a list of candidates to be submitted to the president-elect, Salamati called the lists put forward by other groups "mere recommendations" and emphasized Khatami's full independence in selecting his Cabinet members.

Salamati further added that eligibility must be the sole criterion for selecting Cabinet members and stated that he expects the inclusion of women in the new Cabinet.

Declaring his organization's support for "mixed economy", Salamati called for limited deviations from the declared economic policy of (structural) "adjustment" and pointed to promotion of production as a means of controlling inflation and unemployment.



TEHRAN (July 26): Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi attending the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition of Iran's Contemporary Handicrafts Museum. The exhibition is held in two halls in an area of 1,700 sqm.

Photo: Abbas Takin

Jannati: Action Should Be Taken Against Profiteers

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Those people who undermine regulations to gather large sums should be brought to justice, substitute leader of Tehran Friday congregational prayer Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said here on Friday.

He said that conventional legal procedures in the Iranian courts take too long for such cases to be efficient. Handling the lawsuits in this regard should be expedited. The slow process of the Judiciary would be simply taken as denial of justice, he added.

According to IRNA, Ayatollah Jannati, who was addressing thousands of worshipers at Tehran University, in his first sermon stressed that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, had earlier on reminded the respective officials of the need to do so.

He said that in the past frequently scandalous issues were periodically published by the media regarding different issues, but every time as the voice of public protest gradually subsided, "we saw that the result was never in proportion to the main subjects." He called those cases "bitter experiences of the past".

Ayatollah Jannati also reminded the sensitivity of the issue and said that the task demanded fully qualified and enterprising judges willing to carry out justice even though it should be at the cost of their own dismissal from the bar.

He said investigation of the cases of those people needs very bold officials who are not timid, who may not be bribed or hoodwinked and who will not act leniently towards the suspects. If not, he said, the whole issue would be simply whitewashed.

Ayatollah Jannati said in administration of justice in this issue, all persons who offer inside-information should in turn be assured of their job security and of the concern of judicial system for safeguarding their good reputation.

Meanwhile, the ayatollah commented that certain people believe that raising the issue would have an adverse impact on national economy and may channel cash and wealth out of the country. However, he said, such judgements were typical of the judgements made during the monarchy in Iran. "The national economy in Iran is not built on *haram* (what is prohibited by Islam) practices.

In his second sermon to worshipers, Ayatollah Jannati recalled issues on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S) and the Unity Week.

Iran Launches First Official Arabic Daily

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran on Saturday published its first Arabic newspaper *Al-Wefaq* in its bid to promote friendship between the Islamic Republic and Arab states.

"*Al-Wefaq* is an Arabic publication for Iran and an Iranian publication for the Arabs," *Al-Wefaq*, published by the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said in its first issue.

The London-based *Asharq al-Awsat* said on Saturday that more than 20 Arab journalists would contribute to the new publication.

"Iran and the Arab world enjoy a rich cultural and religious heritage and have tremendous potential to build on long-standing friendship between them," the Managing Director of IRNA Fereidoun Verdinejad said on Saturday.

Iran to Strongly Preserve Its Independence

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to India Ali Reza Sheikh Attar said in New Delhi on Thursday that the Islamic Republic of Iran has put on the top priority of its foreign policy the preservation of its independence and encountering any foreign interference.

Sheikh Attar made the remark while speaking to a group of top officials, professors and students of the Indian National Defense University, an IRNA report said.

He pointed out that the three criteria in Iran's foreign policy are safeguarding the territorial integrity, guaranteeing the economic development, and freewill of the nation to determine the country's destiny.

He added that with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Iran's sagacious policies paved the way for its effective presence in the Central Asia through the fostering of trust among the Central Asian republic.

The United States has invariably attempted to bring the existing regional relations to ruins and that the expansion of NATO eastward was meant to go beyond the western borders of the former Soviet Union aiming for southern and eastern borders as well, stated Sheikh Attar.

The Iranian ambassador stated that the unrest in Afghanistan, is bound to affect the regional countries such as India, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asian republics, bringing turmoil into these nations.

Based on such a discernment, the Iranian foreign policy deems it necessary that regional nations cooperate to find a permanent solution for the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan.

The Iranian ambassador referred to the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf as a big threat to the regional countries, underlining that Persian Gulf security could best and most effectively be achieved through a collective regional security arrangement.

On the armed race in the Persian Gulf countries, he stressed that the United States is encouraging the Arab nations to stock weapons in their silos, while it accuses Islamic Iran for beefing up its military power.

Sheikh Attar added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has spent only eight percent of its annual budget or two percent of its national gross product on purchase of arms, but, the United States keeps accusing Iran of making the region insecure.

In another part of his speech, the Iranian ambassador pointed out that despite the U.S. inciting policies, relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf states are excellent.

He added that Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have taken initiatives in order to promote further understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC).

Sheikh Attar went on to say that Islamic Iran has been trying to resolve its problems with Iraq through peaceful means.

He described Iran's relations with Pakistan and India as 'excellent' and touched particularly on the existing economic ties between the two countries of Iran and India.

Referring to the link between Iran's foreign relations and the country's economic development, he indicated that Tehran is determined to further improve its relations with Japan, South Korea, China and the Southeast Asian countries which are regarded as favorable markets for the Iranian exports as well as useful source for the import of technology.

490 kg of Opium Seized, 5 Drug Traffickers Killed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Law Enforcement Forces shot dead five "bandits" and drug traffickers in a gunbattle in the east of the country, newspapers reported here on Saturday.

The forces seized 490 kilograms (1,080 pounds) of opium after the shootout in the Fariman region of Khorasan Province, the press said.

Iran, which imposes the death penalty on those found in possession of large amounts of heroin or opium, has stepped up the fight against drug trafficking, it said.

According to official figures, 191 tons of various drugs were seized in the last Iranian year, which ran from March 1996 to March 1997.

هكذا من الأصل

No More Division of Muslims

Part 2

Tehran Times Service

The colonial West found it more convenient to launch the cultural aggression to make the East act willingly in accordance with its objectives.

To accomplish this end, the Western powers have worked out programs to divest the active forces and the younger generation of their identity and estranging them from their past and their valuable cultural heritage and tradition. Such invidious schemes prepare the ground for subjecting people to cultural indoctrination. The West worked hard in the Islamic countries to eliminate religion by ostracizing the clerics,. pitting the ulema against each other and spreading sectarianism and religious divisions. The West was successful to implement the divide and rule policy in Islamic countries.

How can this tragic division end?

Today, there is hope for better conditions in Islamic countries. This hope has been inspired from the Islamic Revolution in Iran. All the striving of responsible Muslims in the past came to fruition with the victory of the Islamic Revolution. In all human history there is no record of success comparable to the Islamic Revolution and there is no reason to suppose that the wave of advance will stop. It is conceivable that this wave will go right on, winning more and more of peoples of the world. Dishonest propaganda of the West has not been able to sap the progress of this wave, which is inherently and irresistibility attractive. The news of a really just order would finally reach everywhere. This persuasive force, which shattered the established communist order, has attracted not only the old but also the vigorous, the thoughtful and the young.

The Islamic Revolution is not like the meaningless communist order to be disintegrated in a few decades or with the death its leaders, for it has its roots in the one and a half millennium old history of Islam. The West should not see the Islamic Revolution as it saw the communist order with which it was in constant antagonism and struggle.

The Islamic Revolution is struggling for good life- this and other worldly- and this cannot be achieved simply by the West's secular civilization. The bewitching Western achievements have brought material comfort for many, though not for all. However, as admitted by thoughtful minds, this Western civilization has also brought dooms which can be doctored only by a faith compatible to man's dignity. The rampant social stress which has links to crime and violence cannot be corrected by material progress alone. Science alone cannot provide cure for maladaptive behavior, growing family disintegration, divorce, violence, etc. These can be remedied only by a dynamic faith. Religious belief, if adequately understood, can greatly help today's bewildered man to make utmost benefit from its material comfort. Foregoing this, man will suffer from technological achievements more than he benefits from them.

There are ample grounds in many areas for cooperation between these two camps and this cooperation is beneficent to human race. This is a possible proposal that needs some contemplation and subsequent action.

So far as an end to division of Muslim community is concerned, Muslim leaders should first ignore petty differences and strengthen themselves economically. They must take action for establishment of an economic alliance. It is not an idle dream, but the only practicable solution which we must undertake. Muslims should not wait for others to help them.

The major step towards unity hinges on our collective efforts to build an economic bloc. It is a hard road, but it is really the only one that Muslim community has to traverse. The task is worth trying and calls for the combined effort of many minds. Is there any fundamental reason why we cannot do something of this for the idea? It is not enough that it be the work of a few appointed leaders. All Muslims should participate in whatever way they can afford. Unless there are believers in sufficient numbers, a start on the system can never be made. So, our first duty towards a practical unity is to establish an economic alliance. This is the first step towards building a better world for Muslims and for all.

Muslims possess richest material resources, enormous potentials, a large population and an attractive ideology that has proved its efficiency in administering the spiritual and mundane affairs of the world. We can build our economic alliance by promoting inter-state and international trade relations. We can start by setting up a Muslims Cooperative Fund. Many will join, present proposals and draw up statutes. This fund will develop Muslims into a strong economic bloc which is conducive to building a new world- a United Independent Islamic Nations.

"Vampire of Tehran" Goes on Trial for Suspected Murder Spree

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - An Iranian suspected of raping and killing at least 9 women went on trial on Saturday at a hearing attended by families of the victims.

Security forces had to march into the courtroom to impose order, the official news agency IRNA said, without giving further details.

The suspect, Ali-Reza Khoshru Kuran Kordieh, 28, has been dubbed the "Tehran vampire" for the series of grisly killings which has shocked Iran.

Kordieh from Ghotshan in northeastern Iran has reportedly confessed to slaying nine women in the Tehran region. Newspapers say he is accused of abducting, raping and killing at least 9 women and burning their bodies to try to prevent identification.

According to his confessions reported by the press, Kordieh went out hunting women once a week in his car.

Tehran police chief Yussef-Reza Abolfathi said Kordieh was arrested in 1993 for the abduction and rape of a young girl but managed to escape police custody on his way to trial.

The court hearing will resume on Wednesday while the families of the victims called for the stoning of the "vampire".

Investigation is underway to find if Kordieh had any accomplice.

Mersad Operation Anniversary Held

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Foundation for the Preservation of Memories of the Sacred Defense, affiliated to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held ceremonies in remembrance of the successful Mersad operation nine years ago, and published the following notice:

We have come nine years since that truly glorious morning when the Mersad Operation began. The valiant soldiers of Islam, in the Western theater of operations dealt a heavy and fatal blow to the mercenaries who had joined hands with the forces of Saddam Hussein, and in their childish dreams had taken leave of their senses to believe that they could occupy a part of this land.

The immense number of casualties suffered by the enemy in every sector of the front showed that their grievous error had also become their graves.

The mercenary forces of the Mujaheddin Khalq Organization (MKO) who, from the earliest stages of the Islamic revolution had heralded the banner of lie and deceit, and who had done anything and everything in their power - from taking sanctuary in the enemy's lap, to begging for diplomatic support - put hand in the hand of the enemy's of Islam and were severely defeated by the hand of God and the soldiers of Islam.

French Minister Meets Egyptian Leaders

CAIRO — French Defense Minister Alain Richard met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday at the start of a visit to the Middle East, one of the biggest markets for French weapons.

Richard, who arrived in Cairo late Friday, had talks with Mubarak at the president's summer palace in Alexandria on Egypt's Mediterranean coast, officials said. *(AFP)*

World Events in Iranian Press

NATO's Plans for Expansion to Undermine Iran's Security

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Excerpts of a recent speech delivered in Moscow by NATO's Chief of Political and International Programs, John Baret, envisions NATO to become a large European, Asian and African organization in the near future—and the idea is neither a dream nor a prophecy.

In view of the relevance of the remarks to current NATO plans for expansion particularly to Eastern Europe, not a few Iranian dailies took up the remarks of John Baret in their editorials.

The Persian-language daily *Kayhan* writes that NATO is reviewing the idea of extending its branches to parts of Africa and Asia. According to the daily, the most important part of this plan will be implemented in the Mediterranean Sea.

Kayhan, however, sees the idea as still too early for making any prediction as to the possibility of its achieving success. The organization at the moment is still wrestling with many problems connected with the entry of Eastern European countries and those formerly under the Russian realm of influence. Political experts see such remarks as nothing but the aggrandizement of NATO's power and a warning directed at Russian intimidations.

However, the unfavorable fact that should not be taken lightly is that NATO, led by the U.S., is getting closer to the gates of Asia and the strategic regions of the Middle East and the Caucasus.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Research on 80 Power Projects Underway

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A total of 80 research projects are underway on expansion of power industry, said Deputy Head of Research and Technology Department of Power Generation and Distribution Company (TAVANIR) Ali Motaqed here on Saturday.

Motaqed said that 25 out of the total projects have been successfully accomplished and are ready for mass production, IRNA said.

He said that Rls.six billion has been allocated this year to research in the area of power industry.

15,000 Mobile Sets Manufactured Locally

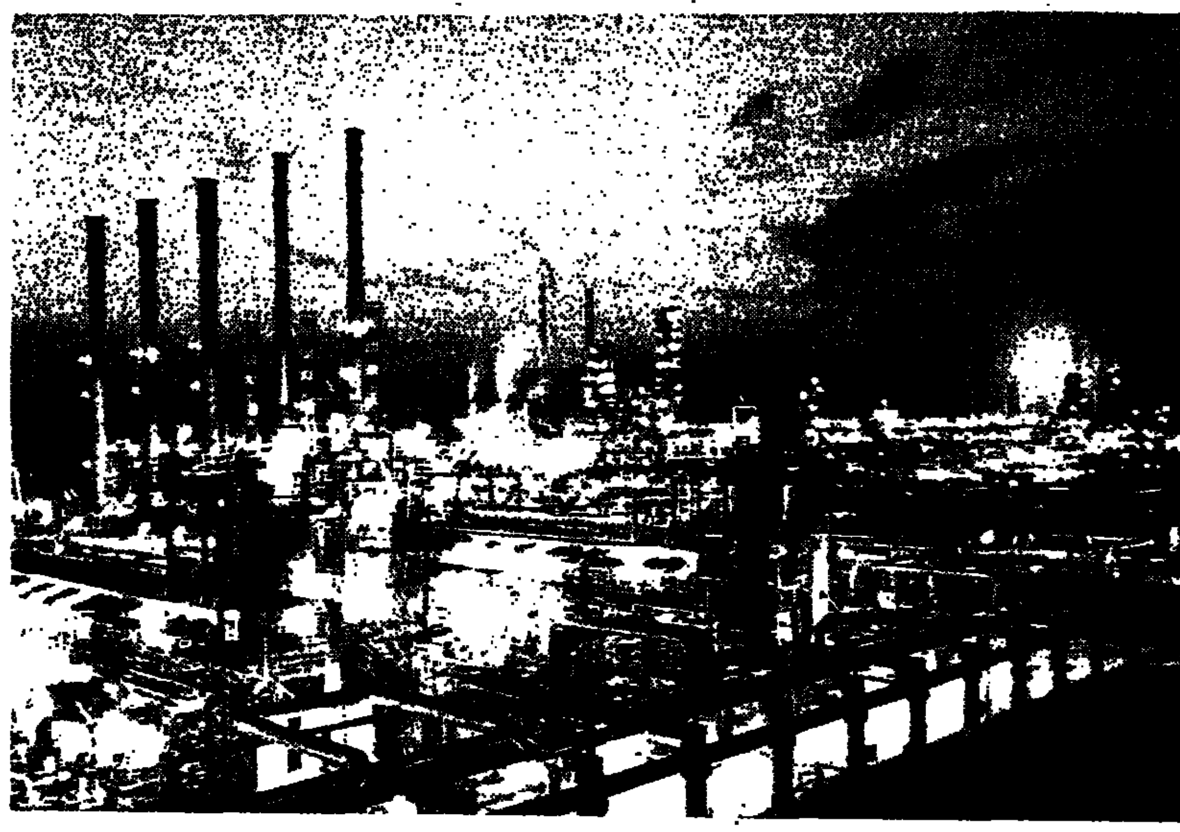
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Electronics Industries Company of Iran (EICI), affiliated to the Defense Ministry, has manufactured 15,000 mobile sets, said the ministry here Saturday.

According to IRNA, the phone sets are ready to be deliverd to Telecommunication Company of Iran(TCI), to be handed over to subscribers.

Under the plan, the company will start manufacturing 100,000 advanced mobile phone sets in the near future.

Iran Joins Ranks of Oil Product Exporters



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Bandar Abbas Oil Refinery will formally begin operations during the imminent visit of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The nominal capacity of the refinery, of which all stages of designing, construction and installation were carried out by local experts, is 232,000 barrels per day. The refinery will provide employment to 1,200 people, IRNA reported.

With the operation of the Bandar Abbas Oil Refinery, built at the cost of over Rls.6,000 billion in hard and local currency, Iran will be able not only to meet its own requirements in oil products but also be transformed into an oil product exporting country.

The daily output of the first ever export-oriented heavy crude oil refinery plant in the country includes 7,100 barrels of liquid gas, 46,100 barrels of petrol, 36,200 barrels of kerosene and jet fuel, 69,500 barrels of diesel fuel, 66,500 barrels of mazut, 5,000 barrels of tar and 124 tons of sulfur.

The Bandar Abbas Refinery has saved the nation $950 million by using resources available within the country.

With the implementation of the project related to the Bandar Abbas Refinery, the eighth in the country, the capacity for the transmission of oil products will increase by 200,000 barrels and its rate of annual reserves by 102 million cubic meters.

During his visit to Hormuzgan province, the president will also inaugurate the second phase of the jetty and the loading and off-loading facilities of the Hormuzgan Steel Complex.

The project has been built at the cost of over Rls.1,142 billion.

A part of the raw material for steel industries will be met by local mines until it is fully operational and will facilitate the transportation of iron ore from mines within the country by sea through Bandar Imam to the Ahvaz Steel Complex and the Qeshm Free Trade Zone.

Among the technical specifications of the project is an access canal with a length of 6.5 km leading to a 700 sq. meter pool, jetty for minerals and petroleum products a 1860-meter access bridge and sea water pumping station.

Oil, Gas Projects Steer Qatar to Economic Prosperity

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Qatar is marching firmly towards economic prosperity as major oil and gas projects heal its transitory economic hardships and turn it again into a capital exporter, experts say in Abu Dhabi, as quoted by AFP.

Although oilfield development projects will hardly change its position as a minor crude supplier, they will fetch it more hard currency as the tiny Persian Gulf country has proven inability to control its OPEC-decreed oil share.

But plans to turn its mammoth underground gas wealth into marketable liquid will be its real windfall as exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) will generate even more cash than its entire oil sales, the experts say.

Qatar, one of the tiniest countries, aims to become the top LNG producer in the world with an eventual production of nearly 20 million tons per year.

As all the output will be exported to Japan and other consumers, at least five billion dollars in extra income will find their way into its coffers every year. That is far more than the earnings generated by crude exports.

"The economy is expected to continue to perform well in the next few years," said Mohammed Moabi, senior economist at the Qatar National Bank.

"By the turn of the century, most of the projects currently under implementation in gas, oil, petrochemicals, steel and other industries should be fully operational," he wrote in the London-based *Arab Banker* magazine.

"As the majority of these projects are export-oriented, Qatar should again be a capital surplus nation by the year 2001."

Qatar's economy has been jolted by low oil prices, growing debt and poor foreign capital inflows because of the absence of clear investment laws and restrictions on ownership by non-nationals.

Economic woes, which followed a boom in the early 1980s, were cited by the present emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, as a reason for overthrowing his father Sheikh Khalifa in a bloodless palace coup in 1995.

Qatar's debt has swollen over the past few years as it strived to finance a persistent budget deficit and meet growing development needs.

The debt grew sharply in the last two years as the government was forced to borrow to fund multi-billion-dollar LNG projects.

According to the Bahraini-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), Qatar's total debt soared to around 4.54 billion dollars in 1996 from 2.75 billion dollars in 1995.

Its current account, a key indicator of healthy economy, continued to record a deficit, which stood at 366 million dollars in 1996.

Although the economy surged by around eight percent last year, this was mainly due to a sharp rise in oil prices, economists said.

"These are momentary problems caused mainly by weak oil prices and lack of investment," said Ihsan abu Huleika, a prominent Saudi economic expert.

"But the economy will start picking up soon and it is forecast to boom in the next years. This is natural for a small country with such a huge gas wealth, an increase in foreign capital and a better investment climate."

Qatar, with a population of only 600,000, is the third biggest gas reservoir in the world after Russia and Iran. Official and independent estimates put its reserves of natural gas, mostly in the giant north field, at more than eight trillion cubic meters (266.6 trillion cubic feet).

It has already started exporting LNG to Japan and supplies are set to pick up as the projects get into full swing. The Qatari government and its foreign partners have already secured supply contracts for most of the production.

Experts said LNG sales would not only widen Qatar's economy, but will also guard it against oil price fluctuations, redress its balance of payments and sharply boost its per capita income, already one of the highest in the world.

"You will see a general upswing without sharp fluctuations in the economy," an expert said. "As you know, LNG, unlike oil, is sold on a long-term basis and prices remain stable as per the agreement."

Iranian Company Provides Monetary Services at ECO Exhibition

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Iranian company Post Bank is in charge of providing monetary services at ECO International Exhibition, being held in the northern city of Bandar Anzali.

The Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) exhibition which is held annually with participation of some regional countries, including the Central Asian republics, provides a suitable forum for expansion of trade and paves the way for cultural cooperation, IRNA said.

Setting up a special pavilion in the exhibition, Post Bank is rendering financial services to foreign as well as dometic participants.

The week-long exhibition was opened in Bandar Anzali on Wednesday.

Libya Keen to Use Iran's Experiences in Fishing Industry

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A Libyan delegation on fisheries arrived today to inspect Iran's fishing facilities in northern port city of Anzali.

In an interview with IRNA, Libyan head of delegation and deputy Minister of Sea Resources, Othman Abdulghadir Ghallal, voiced his country's desire to use Iran's experiences in fish farming and packaging.

The Libyan delegation, on a three-day tour of Iran on an invitation by Gilan's Fisheries, will inspect fishing facilities of the province as well as fish canning and packaging processes.

2,700 Tons of Carbon Black Exported

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 2,700 tons of carbon black worth over one million dollar have been exported abroad from the country this year, Manager of Pars Carbon Black Factory Abdolali Faghih Ordobadi said on Saturday.

He said that the carbon black has been shipped to different countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, adding that the company's exports stood at 6,000 tons last year, IRNA reported.

Carbon black is produced from residues of oil refineries and is used for production of tire industries.

The company with an annual production capacity of 15,000 ton became opperational in 1994.

Russia Can Not Lower Import Dues by 35%

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Russia cannot fulfill its obligation on lowering the import customs dues by 35 percent in 1998-1999, Russian Minister of Economics Yevgeny Yasin said at the first meeting of the government commission for protectionist measures in foreign trade and customs-tariff policy.

The obligation to lower the import customs dues by 35 percent was taken in a recent joint statement of the Russian government and the central bank on fundamentals of Russian economic policy for 1997. it was planned to lower the import dues by 20 percent in 1998 and by another 15 percent in 1999. It has become clear it is impossible to fulfill the obligation in the set time, the minister said, as quoted by an IRNA-Itar-Tass dispatch.

At the same time, he said, the government should announce the intention to lower the customs dues in future, for instance by 2005.

All the interested sides should be informed of an average rate of import tariffs the government would like to have by 2005. This should be done to prepare domestic producers for competition after an inflow of import goods follows a gradual lowering of import dues. This inflow is currently deterred with the size of import dues.

The minister said that the government should keep to the ideology of open economy aimed at encouragement of exports. The government's encouragement of production of goods that can replace import analogs should be an auxiliary task, he said.

Gulfstream Signs Agreement With Oman

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Oman on Saturday signed a $-20- million oil exploration and production agreement with Canada's Gulfstream Resources Canada Ltd., a statement by the Omanese Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals said.

"The Canadian company has been awarded exploration and production rights in Hofar region number 30 in the north of the sultanate (of Oman)," the statement said, as quoted by Reuter.

It said the agreement commits the Canadian company to spend at least $20 million over the next six years on exploration programs which include drilling three exploratory wells.

Oman's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Said bin Ahmed al-Shanfari said the agreement with the Canadian company was one of many which his ministry plans to sign for oil exploration in various parts of the country.

Oman produces 900,000 barrels per day of oil — which accounts for nearly three-quarters of government revenue.

Saturday's Deals TSE

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A total of 755,039 shares, worth over Rls. 1.25 billion, were traded in 364 turns, for 138 applicants at the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) on Saturday.

In Saturday's deal the shares of 7 companines made gains, while those of 4 others declined.

The general price index on Saturday stood at 1848.80 points, up 0.4 points compared to the figure on Wednesday.

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Sports Summary

FOOTBALL

Ronaldo relishes Italian challenge

MILAN: Ronaldo — The world's most expensive footballer — pledged his future to Inter Milan and made his peace with Barcelona when he arrived here on Friday to start his career in Italy.

"I know the fans are expecting a lot and I want to help them to win titles," he said.

"My life has always been a series of challenges and I'm psychologically-prepared but this is the biggest challenge of my life," he added.

He buried the hatchet with Barcelona, who have forced inter to pay more than the $27.6 million Inter thought had secured his release after a bitter tug-of-war.

Inter's Pistone Joins Newcastle

LONDON: Inter Milan's defender Alessandro Pistone on Friday completed his 4.3 million pound ($6.5 million) move to English premiership club Newcastle.

The Italian under-21 international, who has signed a four-year contract, will return to Tyneside early next week after wrapping up affairs in Italy.

Hard-Up Magpies Let Ferdinand Fly Nest

LONDON: Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish on Friday admitted that the decision to sell Les Ferdinand to Tottenham for 6 million pounds ($9 million) had been a financial one.

It has been suggested that Newcastle's brokers had made the club sell Ferdinand because they felt the money was too good to turn dow for a player who is now 30.

Dalglish said on Friday: "I don't want to get involved discussing politics. But this was a financial decision more than a football one.

CRICKET

Australia Is in Charge

LEEDS, England: Australia took command of the fourth test against England at headingley on Friday after memorable performances from pace bowler Jason Gillespie and opening bat Matthew Elliott.

Resuming on 106 for three, England were dismissed for 172 after a career-best seven for 37 from fast bowler Gillespie. The tourists were then in trouble at 50 for four before Elliott hit an unbeaten 134 in a 208 run partnership with Ricky Ponting (86 not out) to steer Australia to 258 for four by the close - an 86-run lead.

Gillespie tore through England batting line-up after nightwatchman dean headley had defied them for 40 minutes with a determined 22, claiming six for 23 in 47 deliveries as the last seven wickets fell for 34 runs in 14 overs.

RALLYING

Toyota Back Rally Championship

TOKYO: The Toyota team, which has been banned from the World Rally Championship, will return to the international arena next month in preparation for the 1998 season.

The 1994 world champion French driver Didier Auriol will test the Toyota Carolla at the 1,000 Lakes Rally in Finland on August 29, where the Toyota team Europe posted its first world championship win 22 years ago.

The Toyota team will contest all the remaining rounds of the world championship as a development exercise, in readiness for a future world championship program.

GOLF

Golf Legend Hogan Dies at Age 84

FORT WORTH, Texas: Legendary golfer ben hogan, who won nine major championships and made a remarkable recovery from a near-fatal car crash, died here Friday, three weeks shy of his 85th birthday.

Hogan had entered the hospital for bronchitis on Thursday, sat his secretary, pat martin. "He had been ill for a while," she said.

Hogan won four us open, two masters, two pga championships and one British open between 1946 and 1953.

Doctors predicted hogan would never walk again after a February 2, 1949, car crash in which his auto struck a bus head-on. hogan nearly died but recovered from shattered legs to play in 1950, winning that year's us open.

AFP

Martinez Finally Beats Nemesis Seles

PALO ALTO, California — Spain's Conchita Martinez outlasted her Nemesis Monica Seles 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 in a nearly two-hour quarter-final at the $450,000 bank of the West Classic Friday for her biggest singles victory since winning Wimbledon in 1994.

Martinez, who was 0-11 and had never won a set against Seles entering the match, put on a brilliant tactical display, consistently confounding her more powerful opponent with deep backhand slices to the second-seeded Seles's Rickety forehand.

"I can't explain how happy I am," said Martinez, the sixth seed. "First, that I finally beat Monica Seles. Second, because I finally played my game. in the past, I would get tentative and give it to her. this time, I beat Monica and I won over myself, too.

"Winning a grand slam is great, but for my confidence, this win is right up there.

World number one Martina Hingis's steely confidence was nearly shaken in a 6-1 6-7 (9-7) 6-3 victory over unseeded American Linda wild.

Bouncing her racket off the court in disgust with her sputtering groundstrokes, Hingis was down 2-0 in the third set before regaining her composure and control of the court.

"I always have one bad day at a tournament and this was it," the 16-year-old Swiss said. "it wasn't easy having to play two days in a row at 7:30 p.m. I can't do anything much during the day because I don't want to get tired. I've already been horseback riding and rollerblading twice. If I go to the mall again, I'll spend more money than I'll make all week."

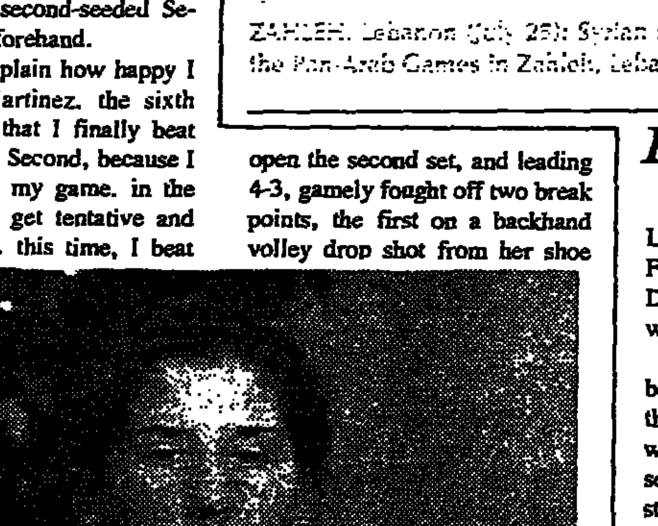
The winner of the bank of the west will take home $79,000.

In a semifinal Saturday, Hingis will meet American Lindsay Davenport, a 7-6 (7-2) 6-3 winner over Russia's Elena Likhovtseva.

Martinez had plenty of opportunities to fold. She was up 3-0 in the first set and let Seles claw into the tiebreaker. but leading 6-5 in the breaker, Martinez went for a wicked slice serve that Seles dumped into the net.

The 25-year-old broke Seles to open the second set, and leading 4-3, gamely fought off two break points, the first on a backhand volley drop shot from her shoe tips after a 20-ball rally, and the second on a swinging forehand volley she pasted into the corner.

(AP)



Monica Seles has a bright future



ZAHLEH, Lebanon (July 25): Syrian Hisham al-Masri swims to the gold in the 200m butterfly race at the Pan-Arab Games in Zahleh, Lebanon.

(AFP PHOTO)

Disneyland Marks Last Weekend

Compiled From Dispatches

LA MARNE EN VALLEE, France - A tour around Disneyland Paris marks the final weekend of the Tour de France.

Jan Ullrich is on the verge of becoming the first German to win the overall title. He has been wearing the leader's yellow jersey since the 10th stage of the 21 stage race that began on July 5 in Rouen.

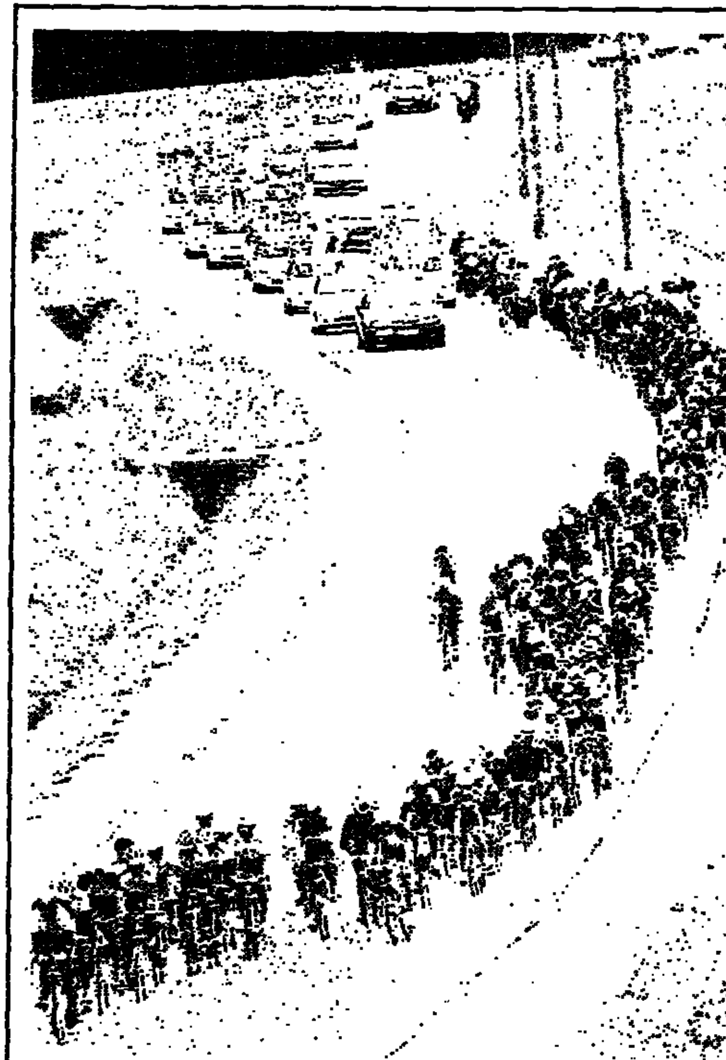
A 63 km (39-mile) time trial around Disneyland Paris marked Saturday's 20th stage, and Ullrich could increase his lead.

Meanwhile it was reported from Dijon, France that Mario Traversoni of Italy won the 19th stage of the Tour de France here on Friday — after the first two over the line were disqualified.

Jan Ullrich of Germany, who rode in with the main pack almost 18 minutes behind the front pair, retained the yellow jersey.

Both Bart voskamp of the Netherlands and Germany Jens Heppner were adjudged guilty of breaking the rules in the final sprint to the line — making Voskamp the third stage winner to be disqualified in this year's Tour de France.

"We decided that as both had caused obstructions the only thing to do was to disqualify both," one of the four judges said.



DIJON, France (July 25): The cyclists of the Tour de France ride through the country during the 19th stage of the Tour de France between Montbeliard and Dijon.

(AFP PHOTO)

W. Asian Basketball in Tehran

TEHRAN — The preliminary round of West Asian Basketball Competition will open in Tehran with a match between Iran and Jordan, August 6.

Iran, Jordan, and Syria are participants in the Round-Robin competition to determine the region's representative in the final round to be held in Saudi Arabia August 23 to September 22 of this year.

IRNA

Irani Runner Up in Volleyball

COPENHAGEN — In the final stage of the men's volleyball competitions of the 18th Olympic games for the deaf and hard of hearing in Copenhagen Friday night, the Iranian team was defeated by Ukrainian and settled for the silver medal of the competitions.

The Iranian team, victorious in the grueling semi-final match against Italy, appeared exhausted and lost in three straight sets to the team from Ukrainian.

In other games of the night, Italy defeated Poland, three games to one and earned the bronze medal and U.S. overcame the Netherlands to secure the fifth spot.

In the final game of the women's volleyball competitions, the Russian team defeated Ukrain to bag the gold.

(IRNA)

Palestinians Demand World Action Against Israeli Settlements

NEW SETTLEMENT PLAN SUSPENDED

GAZA CITY — Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority called Saturday for concrete action from the international community to make Israel back off from plans to build a new settlement in Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

The authority issued a statement after an overnight Cabinet meeting chaired by Arafat branding the planned new settlement in Ras al-Amoud a "grave threat" to peace.

It urged the world, especially the United States and Europe, to take "concrete and serious measures to save the peace process and stop settlement building."

Otherwise, it warned, the Palestinians "will lose their faith in a peace process which gives them nothing."

Israeli authorities in Bait-ul-Moqaddas gave the green light Thursday to an American Jewish millionaire to build 70 new homes for Jews in the middle of Ras al-Amoud, a neighborhood of 11,000 Palestinians at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to block the potentially explosive move, saying it was not "appropriate" to build in an Arab neighborhood for the time being.

He asked his legal advisor Eliakim Rubinstein to search for a legal way to halt the project, even though his own government approved it last December.

The Palestinians, who walked out of peace talks in protest at work on another Jewish settlement elsewhere in Israeli-annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, warned the new plan amounted to a "declaration of war."

The United States said Friday it was opposed to the new project but called on the Palestinians to remain calm and wait and see if Netanyahu can block construction.

State Department spokesman James Foley said the new settlement "would be a move that would further undermine confidence between the parties."

Arab states secured a condemnation of Israeli settlement building in the UN General Assembly, which ordered the Zionist state in April to halt work on the Har Homa housing project which sparked the four-month crisis in the peace process.

Israel refused, and the UN General Assembly again criticized it on July 16 but stopped short of an Arab demand to impose economic sanctions on the Zionist state.

The new project in Ras al-Amoud was launched by U.S. businessman Irving Moskowitz from Miami, well known here for helping rightwing nationalist groups to buy up homes and land in a bid to turn disputed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas into a Jewish-populated area.

It will be the first time Israel has built a Jewish neighborhood in the heart of a Palestinian district.

The developer of a contentious project for a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Baitul-Moqaddas has put the plans on hold because of strong oppositions.

American Jewish millionaire Irving Moskowitz told Israeli authorities that he has "for the time being" decided to suspend construction.

(AFP)

Turkish Prosecutors Rule No Evidence Ciller Spied for CIA

ANKARA — State Security prosecutors on Friday said there was no proof former Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller spied for the CIA and dropped a case against her, Anatolia news agency said.

The semi-official agency said the state security court's decision corresponded to a ruling late Thursday by Turkish military prosecutors.

An inquiry was opened on July 16 following claims by the leader of Turkey's Labor Party Dogu Perincek that he had documents proving that Ciller, while prime minister between 1993 and 1996, had undergone training in the United States and had then worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

But the prosecutor at the State Security Court, Nuh Mete Yuksel, said there was no concrete proof, and the case was closed, Anatolia reported.

Ciller, who leads the conservative opposition True Path Party, is widely disliked within the military — which regards itself as the guardian of Turkey's secular state — for joining forces in Parliament with Necmettin Erbakan's Welfare Party last year, thus making him the republic's first Islamist prime minister.

(AFP)

Mubarak Holds Talks With Arafat on Settlement Plan

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria on Saturday to discuss the latest threat to the deadlocked peace process.

At the center of the discussions at the president's residence were plans for a new Jewish settlement in the heart of Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, officials said.

Bait-ul-Moqaddas' municipal authority, led by rightwing mayor Ehud Olmert, on Thursday authorized an American millionaire to build 70 Jewish homes on private land in the Arab neighborhood of Ras al-Amoud.

Palestinian leaders branded the project a "declaration of war" which could deal a fatal blow to the peace process with Israel, already stalled for four months over the building of another settlement in annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Arafat also informed Mubarak of his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in Brussels earlier this week under the auspices of the European Unicn.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PROTEST...

jral's visit was like "sprinkling salt on the wounds" of Kashmiris.

Gujral will hold talks with Farooq Abdullah, the chief minister of Kashmir, where the separatist campaign has killed more than 20,000 people since 1989.

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, is disputed between India and Pakistan. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and training the militants.

Pakistan denies the allegations but gives diplomatic and moral support to the campaign, describing it as the Kashmiris' rightful struggle for self-rule.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral on Saturday offered for the first time to hold talks without pre-conditions with separatist guerrillas in the strife-torn northern state of Kashmir.

"I am ready to talk without any conditions with those misguided people with guns just like we have done with tribal militants of Nagaland," he announced in Qazikund, 80 kilometers (46 miles) south from Srinagar.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

LEBANESE...

Mariam Sobh, 60, was injured by fragments from a shell which fell on Sohmor, around 10 kilometers (six miles) outside the eastern sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The Voice of the South, the radio of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) mercenaries, said the attack did not cause any casualties.

Under an April 1996 cease-fire accord, Israel and the Hezbollah agreed not to target civilians on either side of the border or to launch attacks from civilian areas.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 3)

MISUARI...

"If they make a mistake owing to the inability to produce something that can convince (the people) to join hands with us in putting up autonomy... (that) mistake could be the very recipe for the renewal of war."

Misuari did not say he would return to the battlefield but warned more people could join a rebel group which has been skirmishing with the government for a separate state in the southern Philippines.

"If autonomy will not be pushed through... people might even join extremist elements who will demand something more."

Misuari made the speech late Friday to officials of the Southern Philippine Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD), a body charged with overseeing development projects in 14 Muslim-populated provinces in the southern Philippines.

The SPCPD was created last year as part of a concession to Misuari when he signed a peace agreement with the government, ending more than two decades of fighting for a separate Islamic state.

He was also elected governor of a four-province Muslim autonomous area within the area covered by the SPCPD.

As part of the peace agreement, the government will hold a plebiscite by 1999 asking the remaining provinces of the SPCPD if they wish to be part of an expanded autonomous area.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT...

Khan, and governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohsen Nourbakhsh gave reports on the economic situation of the country.

Mohammad Khan said inflation has been pushed down to below 16 percent last year from 43 percent in the preceding year.

Mohammad Khan and Nourbakhsh awarded the president with a plaque of honor for his meritorious services in the field of economic development and reconstruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ALGERIAN...

Zouabri, 26, was killed on Thursday before dawn at a blockhouse in mountains seven kilometers (four miles) from Hattatba, a town 40-odd kilometers (25 miles) west of the Algerian capital, it said.

Informed sources however had told AFP on Thursday that Zouabri had been killed two days earlier, in the same area.

For its part, President Liamine Zeroual's military-supported secular government — at war with Islamic activists for five years — has yet to publicly announce that Zouabr is finished.

El Watan said that a military operation launched about 10 days ago had claimed 135 victims in the ranks of the GIA.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

LEGHARI...

purpose our two governments should be able to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries for mutual benefit," he said in a message to K.R. Narayanan who was sworn in as president on Friday.

Leghari said in the congratulatory note that Pakistan desired tension-free cooperative relations with its neighbor.

Pakistan and India, which resumed normalization talks in March after a break of more than three years, have scheduled a third session between their foreign secretaries in New Delhi in September.

The neighbors, celebrating next month the golden jubilee of their independence from Britain, have fought three wars in the past, two of them over control of the Himalyan region of Kashmir.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ANTI-TALEBAN...

The anti-Taleban coalition's foreign minister, Abdulrahim Ghafourzehi, confirmed Friday that Masood was commanding opposition forces north of Kabul in an interview with a Swiss newspaper published Friday.

Ghafourzehi suggested in the *Tribune De Geneve* that immediate peace talks were possible if the fundamentalist militia clears out of Kabul.

"If they evacuate the city, we are ready to immediately begin peace talks," he said, adding that the Taleban have rejected such a proposal.

Meanwhile, The Taleban militia Saturday reacted angrily after the London-based Amnesty International said nearly 2,000 ethnic Tajiks and Hazaras had been imprisoned during Taleban sweeps in Kabul.

In a statement from its London headquarters, the human rights group said Friday most of the detainees were non-combattants, picked up at their homes in Khair Khana, Karte Parwan, Char Kala and Dasht Barchi districts.

The Taleban spokesman said "small scale arrests" had taken place, but asserted the captives were only "those instigated by foreign countries to disturb security."

"Those whose crimes are not substantiated will of course be released after investigation," Mutawakel added.

The Amnesty report said the victims of the roundup were being held at Kabul's Pul-e Charkhi Prison, a building that gained notoriety during the 1979 to 1992 communist regime in Afghanistan.

The report accused the hardline militia of holding prisoners in deplorable conditions with limited access to food, adding that some had experienced ill treatment in detention.

Amnesty added that most of the men were family breadwinners, held by the Taleban to intimidate the rest of the community and discourage family members from joining anti-Taleban forces outside the capital.

The human rights group called for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the detainees, whom it described as prisoners of conscience.

However Mutawakel dismissed the accusations, claiming that those held at Pul-e Charki are "mostly POW's and people caught in the battlefield."

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

TURKISH...

The new law would increase compulsory secular education from five to eight years, shutting down the junior high sections of Islamic secondary schools.

Other measures ordered by the military are the curbing of funding which allegedly support Islamic groups and the shutdown of unlicensed Qoran study courses.

(AP)

(Contd From Pg. 3)

NATO...

Kayhan writes that the most visible efforts exerted by the U.S. and European countries aimed at strengthening NATO's power and promoting its expansion objective is in its participation in trans-regional operations. Citing an instance of NATO display of power, the daily pointed to its participation in Operation Desert Shield where it joined U.S. forces in driving Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Informed sources believe that NATO's southern members—Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey—may put pressure on NATO to pay attention to their region's growing need for security.

The U.S. aim is to gain world acceptance of NATO, as the biggest military organization in the world, as being able to undertake the role of an international police—led by the U.S. of course—in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and even the Pacific region.

The *Kayhan* commentary gives the implication that several years of experience obtained during the post-revolution period proves that U.S. policies should not go unheeded. The U.S. ultimate goal is to be implemented along with an overall plan to use NATO as a lever to control and exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The above points, in the light of the presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf region, the economic sanctions imposed against Iran, the support extended to opponents of the Islamic system, the denunciations made by the UN Human Rights Commission of alleged human rights violations in Iran, and their biased stance in the "three-islands dispute" in the Persian Gulf are all convincing proofs of U.S. attempts to undermine Iran's national security.

In a news analysis, the Persian-language daily *Ettela'at* writes that NATO rejects the charges relating to NATO's desire for domination while asserting its stated goal which is to strengthen peace and security in Europe and the Atlantic region. But the daily points out, the facts as indicated prove otherwise.

The daily further writes that despite Russia's signing of a cooperation agreement with NATO late last month, Moscow has not stopped condemning NATO for approaching its borders—something which Moscow considers to be a threat to its security.

Ettela'at points to one other proof of a difference in NATO stated objectives, i.e., stability in Europe, from its actual objective. NATO, it says, has accepted the membership of three countries but has left nine others in the waiting list. While all such states who have applied to join NATO insist on their common support for NATO's objectives, some countries are being accused of instigating support for Russia's spirit of expansionism.

(Contd from Pg.7)

UK...

Traditionally, heart surgery on the young involves chilling sick and fragile children before operating, a technique known as hypothermia surgery. The problem is that a quarter of children undergoing such surgery suffer serious side effects.

Corno's method, which he calls Normothermia, had astonished doctors around the world, HCI, which is located near Glasgow, said. He has performed the technique, operating on children without lowering their body temperatures or slowing metabolism and blood flow, in 60 cases since last year.

"The benefits of the Normothermic technique speak for themselves," Corno said. "Although it means we have to work much faster, we are able to avoid the complications which can arise from deliberately chilling and reheating the child."

Corno, 47, said most of his patients leave the HCI intensive care unit (ICU) after 24 hours and return home after five to seven days. Under traditional methods, 11 days is more normal.

In addition, fewer children require inotropic drugs to maintain the heart's ability to pump blood after surgery, while complications such as respiratory disorders and blood, liver and kidney difficulties are significantly reduced.

All that adds up to a significant reduction in hospitalization costs.

(Reuter)

Normal Serv
but Political

Normal Service Resumed in HK, but Political Change Under Way



HONG KONG—With a lingering sense of anti-climax, Hong Kong appears little changed four weeks after its handover to China, but the untroubled mood shrouds deep political changes already engineered by its new masters.

There have been no stern-faced mainland troops in the streets, no eruptions of civil disorder or crackdowns on demonstrators and there are few outward signs that the thriving capitalist territory is now part of communist China.

"There are not too many physical changes, apart from the new government and the presence of Chinese troops, but there is no fear in my heart," said Lok Kam-Sang, a 65-year-old messenger.

"We are ordinary citizens and not involved in politics, so there's nothing to be scared about."

For yau, (eds: one name), a housewife in her mid-30s, the handover has barely left a mark on the lives of ordinary Hong Kongers. "Not much has changed — I just take life as before," she said.

As the four-day riot of new found patriotism and pageantry marking the July 1 handover subsided, and the novelty of the communist Chinese flag flying over Hong Kong wore off, the territory soon knuckled down to what it does best — making money.

However, chief executive Tung Chee-Hwa methodically set about dismantling reforms passed under British rule, prompting charges that he had tilted power too far towards Hong Kong's business elite.

His tactics triggered a storm of protest among democrats unceremoniously turfed out of their seats when the elected legislative council was replaced by the China-picked provisional legislature.

"End of Honeymoon" screamed an editorial in the *South China Morning Post* detailing the furore that erupted over Tung's determination to overturn liberal laws passed in the final days of colonial rule.

Tung's oft repeated Mantra before July 1 was that freed from 156 years of colonial domination, Hong Kong people would be at last be allowed to govern Hong Kong.

However, as the provisional legislature froze labour laws granting increased protection for workers, opponents started to question just who Tung's cabinet, or executive council, was governing Hong Kong for.

Former Democratic Party legislator Andrew Cheng claimed the provisional legislature's action proved a cosy clique had developed between the government and big business.

"It sends a bad message to the international community that they have already started to work it out with the business community in Hong Kong," he told AFP.

"Tung is trying to copy the Singapore model in Hong Kong." However, Tung said that the action was vital to safeguard Hong Kong's standing as an Asian economic superpower.

"If you look at it, Hong Kong's economy has been good, unemployment rate is very low," he said.

"And one of the reasons is because of very good relationship we have and it is important that we continue this ... very good, harmonious labour-employer relationship."

The provisional legislature session freezing the laws last week was interrupted by protests in the chamber's public gallery, vocal demonstrations outside, and hunger strikes by two labour activists.

Government efforts to deport child illegal immigrants from China prompted fears that the basic law, the mini-constitution governing post-handover Hong Kong, could be bypassed.

The issue came to a head when a father filed for a judicial review of an immigration department order to expel his three children, aged three to seven years.

Hundreds more families are expected to follow suit in an effort to prove that a new immigration law passed by the provisional legislature contravenes the basic law, which grants right of abode to children if their parents are permanent residents.

Spurred by the strongly pro-business signals emerging from Tung's office, Hong Kong's stocks are still running riot — confounding predictions that exuberance in the markets would cool after the handover.

The Hang Seng index soared to three record closing highs in five sessions last week, only slipping back slighfly as investors helped themselves to profits.

Hong Kong's new status, rumours of predatory moves on Hong Kong "blue-chips" by mainland firms and speculative attacks on other Asian currencies, are expected to boost prices even more, analysts said.

"The concept of 'greater China' still holds good," said Michael Ng, dealing director of Sassoon Securities Ltd., referring to the theory that Hong Kong is benefitting from its new links to the mainland.

If soaraway stocks have been catching the eye, the People's Liberation Army — which rekindled memories of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre when it rolled across the border, certainly hasn't.

The PLA has so far been an invisible army with little activity reported, particulary at its downtown Prince of Wales headquarters.

Under strict orders to keep a low profile, the army has even hinted that it will appoint a media officer and open barracks to the public in a public relations initiative.

(AFP)

Trouble Spots to Dominate ASEAN Talks With Partners

KUALA LUMPUR— The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold talks here this weekend with its major international partners focusing on regional trouble spots.

Cambodia is the most immediate concern, but there is also potential for conflict in the Korean Peninsula, across the Taiwan Straits and in the South China Sea.

In addition, many of ASEAN's western partners will be pressing human rights issues with the highlight on the regional grouping's brand-new member, Burma, where the military junta rules with an iron hand.

The fourth annual ASEAN regional forum (ARF) on Sunday will bring the ASEAN states together for day-long talks with partners including Australia, China, India, Japan, Russia and the United States.

It is the largest and most diverse forum of its kind in the world, spanning both sides of the Pacific Ocean and encompassing countries large and small, wealthy and poor and with widely varying political systems.

The forum was set up to give Asian states the means to head off conflict without being forced to rely on distant partners with different interests and the military might to back them.

"The ARF process allows small and middle powers a significant voice in regional security affairs and inhibits the major powers from dominating and dictating the regional security agenda," said Mohamed Jawhar Hassan of Malaysia's Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

The forum's prime focus is political, calling for a first stage of confidence-building measures to be followed by preventive diplomacy and, eventually, the development of conflict-resolution mechanisms.

Officially, the ARF remains in the confidence-building stage with multiple official-level meetings and a tentative start to exchanges of military information.

But some members are already impatient, and there are calls for a rapid decision to move into preventive diplomacy.

"Periods of rapid economic growth are often accompanied by significant shifts in power relations which can lead to conflict," one of the ASEAN diplomats behind the forum's creation said.

"We need to move forward now because even domestic upheaval in one country in the region can have a spillover effect and seriously undermine the stability of the region as a whole," he added.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, a proponent of slow but steady progress, said that reliance by some nations on military alliances had been an obstacle to the forum's efforts.

"Military alliances are by nature exclusive, while the ARF is inclusive. The future of Asia-Pacific security is better assured by a policy of engagement, not exclusion," he said in an address Thursday to ASEAN foreign ministers.

To give more substance to the forum's deliberations this time, organizers have decided to forego the usual brief opening speeches by each minister and instead circulate their texts "as read."

For the first time, ministers will be accompanied by two senior officials as they turn their attention to security specifics.

ASEAN delegations generally would be bringing along defense specialists, although some of the other delegations indicated they would stick with foreign affairs officials, participants said.

ASEAN has long stressed the importance of peace and stability for continued economic growth.

Started 30 years ago as a bulwark against communist expansion in southeast Asia, ASEAN gradually shifted its focus to economic cooperation as member states began to enjoy the fruits of development.

Since that time, the anti-communist founder states — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — have been joined by Brunei, Vietnam, and, this week, Burma and Laos.

Cambodia was set to round out the ASEAN 10 this week, until second prime minister Hun Sen ousted rival first prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh early this month and then rebuffed an ASEAN offer to mediate.

After last-minute talks, ASEAN agreed to allow Cambodia to take its observer's seat at the annual foreign ministers' meeting here Thursday and Friday ahead of the ARF.

The other forum participants are Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

(AFP)

Election Results Stir South Korea's Political Map

SEOUL—South Korea's ruling New Korea Party (NKP) has won a parliamentary by-election in the central province of Chungchong, securing a toehold in the opposition stronghold ahead of the December presidential poll.

But it failed to prevent President Kim Young-sam's former political foe, Park Tae-joon, from roaring back to politics with a landslide in a separate by-election, held in the southeastern province of north Kyongsang.

In the Yesan election in south Chungchong province on Thursday, NKP candidate Oh Jang-sup won 26,608 votes or 53.3 percent, beating Jo Jong-sup of the second largest opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) with 23,312 votes or 46.7 percent.

The poll victory in Yesan was considered here as a boost for Lee Hoi-chang, the NKP nominee for the presidential election.

Lee, son of Yesan, had been campaigning hard there to help the party win the by-election, a first since he was elected as NKP candidate for the presidency on Monday.

The Yesan election outcome dealt a blow to the second opposition ULD and its president, Kim Jong-pil, whose support base is in north and south Chungchong provinces.

Kim Jong-pil and top opposition leader Kim Dae-jung have been involved in so-far unsuccessful talks to field a single opposition candidate in the presidential race.

The triumph in Yesan of the ruling party, however, was tarnished by the rout of the NKP candidate in the by-election on Thursday in the politically important city Pohang in the populous Kyongsang region.

Independent candidate Park won 47,935 votes or 45.7 percent, followed by a splinter opposition party candidate who won 34 percent. The ruling party candidate came in a distant third with 17.6 percent.

The victory, although expected, was sweet revenge for Park, who returned home in May after four years of self-imposed exile in Japan to escape what his aides said was feared political retaliation by the president.

(AFP)

Gujral Weakest Link in Political Chain

NEW DELHI— Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's appointment three months ago ended weeks of political chaos in the world's biggest democracy and kindled hopes of stability.

But after watching Gujral's 15-party United Front coalition lurch from crisis to crisis, political analysts see few signs of stability as the scholarly prime minister struggles to control his unruly alliance.

"Gujral doesn't seem to have the instincts of a politician. He doesn't have a mass base. He doesn't want to make difficult decisions, and he has no control over the coalition," analyst Mahesh Rangarajan at the center for contemporary studies said on Sunday.

"I think he got a difficult brief to start with, and frankly things have spun out of control now," Rangarajan said.

The alliance chose Gujral as its leader in April after the coalition's powerful ally, the Congress Party, abruptly withdrew its vital backing to the government and said it would resume support only if the United Front chose a new leader.

Congress's shock decision unnerved Indian stock markets, which have surged to new highs since the quiet, uncontroversial Gujral emerged as the front's consensus candidate.

But since he was sworn in on April 21, Gujral has been tiptoeing through a minefield of domestic politics, trying to delicately balance alliance members' conflicting demands as they bicker in public.

"Gujral is in a very weak position," said coalition politics analyst E. Sridharan. "nobody is dependent on him and he has very little authority."

His government's vulnerability was highlighted last week when a regional party threatened to pull out, complaining the alliance's communist members were throwing their weight about by insisting a scandal-tainted leader be forced out of the group.

The communists say Laloo Prasad Yadav, the former president of Gujral's Janata Dal Party, and his supporters should be expelled from the coalition since federal police have indicted Yadav in a $280 million embezzlement scandal.

Yadav says he is innocent, and the communists' opponents say pushing his breakaway Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) group out can only fragment the fractious alliance.

In a desperate attempt to strike a balance, the United Front announced the RJD could not be part of the coalition — but three RJD members could continue as Gujral's ministers.

"It is an absurd situation," said Sridharan. "It reflects how in a large coalition, even very small partners have a very high blackmail potential. They can threaten to leave and destabilise the situation, and here, Gujral's position is so weak he can't do anything about Laloo."

Yadav has refused to resign as chief minister of the populous state of Bihar, despite veiled suggestions from an embarrassed Gujral that he ought to.

The prime minister's softly-softly approach has won few admirers.

"He would like Laloo to go but he can't do anything to make him resign.

(Reuter)

Flesh-Eating Dinosaur Dug Up in Patagonia

BUENOS AIRES — Argentine scientists in Patagonia have unearthed the bones of a 90-million-year-old dinosaur related to the fearsome Velociraptor depicted in the film "Jurassic Park", a newspaper reported.

"We know it was a medium-sized, carnivorous animal, about eight feet (2.5 m) long from its head to the tip of its tail, and that it weighed about 66 pounds (30 kg)," paleontologist Fernando Novas told Clarin newspaper.

The Araucanoraptor Argentinus was a distant relative both of the fleet-footed Velociraptor and of the earliest ancestors of modern birds.

(Reuter)

Helicopter Granny Two-Thirds Around World

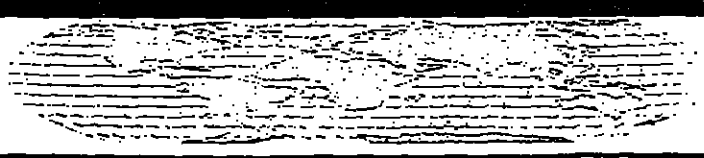
TORRANCE, Calif., — Braving an Arabian sandstorm, a Bangladeshi cyclone and Russian bureaucracy, a British grandmother landed Tuesday on her way to becoming the first woman to fly round the world in a helicopter.

"We're here on time and on schedule," a beaming Jennifer Murray said after stepping from her fire-engine-red chopper at the Torrance airport in suburban Los Angeles.

"But we still have another three-and-a-half weeks to go to get back to London," said the whirlybird granny.

(Reuter)

International Briefs



Man Comes Out of Glass Cage After 21 Days With 6,000 Scorpions

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A Malaysian snake charmer covered with small red bites emerged Saturday after 21 days in a glass cage with a brood of temperamental roommates - 6,000 scorpions. Ali Khan Samsuddin, trying to set a world record, was greeted with claps and shouts of support as he picked the last of the scorpions clinging to his body and stepped out of the cage. As he stepped through the door - held open for him by the Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's Sister-in-law - Ali Khan touched the bottom of the cage with the fingers of his right hand and then touched his forehead. Ali Khan received a cup, a certificate and a glass plaque with a picture of a scorpion from Zaleha as he stood on a podium. Later he lifted his shirt to reveal the stings. Ali thinks he withstood the poison thanks to herbs he eats daily.

20 Injured as Typhoon Rosie Slams Into Japan

TOKYO — Typhoon Rosie slammed into western Japan Saturday after whipping up heavy seas and strong winds which injured more than 20 people, government agencies and police said.

Election of Indian Minister's Wife Sparks National Furore

NEW DELHI — The uneducated wife of a scandal-tainted Indian chief minister, chosen by him as his successor after he was forced to quit, assumed office Saturday amid all-round ridicule. Marxist allies of India's ruling coalition, meanwhile, lent voice to the condemnation of former Bihar state Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav for installing his wife on the seat he quit on Friday after facing arrest.

New Deaf-Mute Immigrant Exploitation Ring Discovered

WASHINGTON — U.S. authorities raided two homes in north Carolina Friday and found a second group of deaf-mute Mexican immigrants forced to sell trinkets as virtual slaves, the Justice Department said. The discovery came after police in New York last week discovered 55 deaf-mute illegal Mexican immigrants who had been forced to sell cheap key chains on the subway.

French Blazes Destroy Forests Near Marseille

MARSEILLE, France — Firefighters struggled against blazes near the Mediterranean port of Marseille Saturday that have destroyed homes and ravaged more than 1,500 hectares (3,750 acres) of forest and scrubland.

Albright, Qian Hail Improved U.S.-China Ties

KUALA LUMPUR — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen hailed progress in bilateral ties and worked out details of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's upcoming U.S. visit Saturday.

The two ministers held bilateral talks in the Malaysian capital, where they are to attend today's ASEAN regional forum, an annual security dialog hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Since the beginning of this year, thanks to the joint efforts of the two sides, Sino-U.S. relations have on the whole kept the good momentum of improvement and growth," Qian told a joint news conference before they met.

Albright said the fact that it was her fourth meeting with Qian this year was a sign that both countries attached "great importance" to their relationship, and called for "tangible and growing benefits" for both.

She said Washington wanted to intensify preparations for four-party talks next month involving both powers as well as North and South Korea, and to deepen cooperation in the areas of energy, the environment, law enforcement, nuclear proliferation, as well as trade and human rights.

Albright said Washington and Beijing "don't agree on everything" but added that she was looking forward to "concrete results in these and other areas."

On Taiwan, Qian expressed appreciation for U.S. President Bill Clinton affirmation of Washington's "one China" policy. (AFP)



CZEPIELOWICE, Poland (July 25): A man with bucket hangs across a flooded street in the Czepielowice village. Many of the residents have decided to reman in the village living in the upper stories of their flooded homes.

(AFP PHOTO)

Japan Offers Conditional Support to Cambodia

KUALA LUMPUR — Japan offered conditional support to Cambodia Saturday, saying Japanese cooperation will continue as long as it upholds certain international obligations, officials from the two countries said.

Emerging from an hour-long meeting with Japan's Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda at a hotel here, Cambodian Foreign Minister Ung Huot told reporters he was "very pleased" with the outcome of the talks.

Asked if Japanese aid would resume to Cambodia, he replied "Yes." Pressed on when this would happen, he answered: "Now."

Japanese officials said Ikeda told the Cambodian Foriegn Minister that Japan, the country's biggest aid donor, was ready to recognize the government in Phnom Penh if four conditions were met.

Under such conditions, Cambodia should respect the Paris Peace Agreement of 1991, maintain its current constitution and political system, respect human rights and other freedoms and hold free and fair elections in May next year.

"As long as Cambodia keeps this stance, we will continue to offer cooperation to Cambodia," Ikeda was quoted as saying.

Japanese officials said Ung Huot fully concurred with the Japanese position. "I perfectly agree with you," he was quoted as saying.

(AFP)

Opposition Slaughter 38 People in Algeria

PARIS — Opposition killed 38 villagers in two separate attacks on hamlets southwest of the Algerian capital this week, an Algerian newspaper said Saturday.

Le Matin said the 38 villagers were killed overnight Wednesday-Thursday by having their throats cut or decapitated and their bodies burnt. Two other newspapers, reporting the same attacks, put the number of dead at 36.

"At 2 a.m. we heard people shouting and minutes later we were attacked by gunmen...wearing uniforms of paratroopers," said a survivor quoted by *Le Matin.*

El Watan newspaper said about 50 guerrillas, on board a truck, stormed Si Zoubir hamlet in Hajout area, some 65 km (40 miles) southwest of Algiers, killing 24 villagers by slashing their throats.

They then moved to neighbouring Douch village and slaughtered 12 more people, it said.

(Reuter)



MONROVIA, Liberia (July 24): Former Liberian Warlord Charles Taylor (C) is escorted by an ECOMOG soldier after his victory in the July 19 presidential elections was officially proclaimed by the electoral commission in Monrovia.

(AFP PHOTO)

Khmer Rouge Sentences Pol Pot to Life Imprisonment

PHNOM PENH — The Khmer Rouge guerrilla group has sentenced its former leader Pol Pot and his lieutenants to "life imprisonment" and abandoned the name of the movement, Khmer Rouge radio said Saturday.

The clandestine radio said "thousands" of the movement's supporters and leaders had met in the Khmer Rouge's northern Cambodian stronghold of Anlong Veng Friday to "severely sentence Pol Pot and his whole clique" which had "betrayed" the nation.

"The decison of the meeting was to approve a resolution to sentence Pol Pot and his entire clique and to imprison them for their entire lives," the broadcast monitored here and in Bangkok said.

The broadcast, which did not specify how many people were in Pol Pot's clique, said the meeting had been attended by international observers and members of the press but it was unclear to whom exactly it was referring and the entire episode was unable to be independently confirmed. (AFP)



هكذا من الأصل

Malaysian Leader Names American Billionaire as Behind Currency Attacks

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday named U.S. financier George Soros as the man behind a recent wave of speculative attacks on Southeast Asian currencies that have driven down their value.

Mahathir has been saying all week that an American billionaire was responsible for the region's currency problems, but he had refused to name anyone. Press reports said that Soros was clearly the target of Mahathir's accusations.

"Today, I am confirming that George Soros is the man that I was talking about," Mahathir told reporters.

Mahathir said Soros was using his financial might in an effort to hurt countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and keep them from admitting Burma as a member because of its human rights record.

Soros has denied that his open society foundation, which promotes democracy in Burma, has any connection or influence on his financial dealings.

Burma was admitted to ASEAN on Wednesday along with Laos over the opposition of the United States and some European countries, which believe the Burmese government should be isolated to pressure it to improve its human rights record.

Soros "has tried to use his financial clout in the United States to block Myanmar's (Burma's) admission into ASEAN," Mahathir told reporters.

In recent weeks several Southeast Asian currencies have been pushed to new lows by a series of speculative attacks.

ASEAN foreign ministers, meeting in Kuala Lumpur, expressed strong concern Friday about the currency instability and said they would cooperate in fighting the speculation.

The ringgit in Malaysia, the peso in the Philippines, the rupiah in Indonesia and the baht in Thailand are among the currencies that have lost value in the onslaught.

Mahathir called the declines "very serious" said as a result "the poor people in these countries will suffer, and these are the people that have to be protected from George Soros, who has so much money and power but is totally thoughtless."

He added: "We have worked 20 to 40 years to develop our countries to this level and along comes the man with a few billion U.S. dollars and within a period of two weeks, he has undone almost the work we have done."

Mahathir has argued that the fundamentals of most economies in the region remain strong and therefore the decline in their currencies is unjustified.

Soros' Open Society Institute finances the Burma project, a 3-year-old operation that seeks to publicize human rights abuses in burma and support opposition groups.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, is expected to discuss the situation in Burma with the ASEAN foreign ministers. It was unclear whether Malaysia would bring up the currency issue in talks with her.

U.S. officials have said that although the United States two months ago banned new American investments in Burma and called for other nations to do so, the U.S. administration recognized that it is up to ASEAN to decide who should become a member.

(AP)

UAE Expects 200,000 Jobless in 10 Years

ABU DHABI — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will have an estimated 200,000 jobless nationals in 10 years and the private sector must hire more home-grown labor, a UAE minister said in press comments Saturday.

Communication Minister Ahmed al-Tayer said a government job nationalisation drive in the banking sector could be enforced in other sectors to absorb the growing number of graduates from universities and other institutions.

"Employment of UAE nationals will be among the most serious challenges facing the country," Tayer told al-Ittihad newspaper.

"Estimates show that there will nearly 200,000 citizens in the year 2006 searching for jobs. There should be a plan to ensure jobs for them in the private sector and I think the National and Foreign Institutions should shoulder their responsibility in this respect."

The UAE has launched a campaign to provide jobs for its surging number of qualified citizens and ease reliance on dominant foreign labor.

But the private sector has been reluctant to recruit nationals on the grounds they lack skills and demand much higher salaries.

According to independent estimates, UAE nationals account for less than 10 percent of the Persian Gulf country's workforce of around one million. Most of the expatriate workers are from India, Pakistan, and other Asian countries.

In banking, UAE natives form only 8.8 percent of the nearly 13,000 employees, said Tayer, who heads a government committee overseeing a job nationalisation program in the UAE's 47 banks.

"I think the efforts being exerted in the banking sector to develop national manpower will spread to other sectors, including industry, trade, insurance and other services," Tayer said. *(AFP)*

Bolivia, Brazil Launch Construction of $1.8bn Pipeline

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Construction began Friday of a $1.8 billion natural gas pipeline that will stretch nearly 2,000 miles (more than 3,000 kilometers) carrying Bolivian natural gas to southern Brazil.

"This is a historic moment for Brazil and Bolivia," said Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso at a ceremony in Puerto Suarez, located on the border with Brazil.

The pipeline, the largest project of its kind in Latin America, is expected to be completed in 1999. It will run 1,898 miles (3,061 kilometers) from Rio Grande, Bolivia, crossing into Brazil at Corumba and then branching out to supply the cities of Sao Paulo, Curitiba and Porto Alegre.

"With this project, Bolivia will become a regional center in the southern cone for the sale of natural gas for the entire region," said Jorge Quiroga, the vice president-elect of Bolivia.

Petroleo Brasileiro S.A., or Petrobras, the Brazilian oil and gas company, has agreed to buy 8 million cubic meters of natural gas a day for the first seven years of the 20-year supply contract. After the seventh year, the volume purchased goes up to 16 million cubic meters a day until the contract expires.

Under terms of the agreement, petrobras would pay for the gas even if it did not find buyers for it.

Natural gas from that pipeline will be used by a thermoelectric plant to produce more electricity for the region.



Bolivia has 9.94 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, according to the State Petroleum Corp.

The project is expected to bring Bolivia revenues of $500 million a year in the fifth year of operation, according to Arturo Castanos, president of the State Petroleum Corp. This represents nearly half of the country' current export earnings.

The inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank have committed $208 million each for the project, said David Atkinson, IADB representative in Bolivia. Final approval is expected in October. The Andean Development Corp. will provide a $215 million loan for the project.

Companies involved in various phases of the construction and operation of the contract include Enron Corp. of Houston, Bechtel of San Francisco and Royal Dutch/Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil and gas giant.

Petrobras will be in charge of construction of the Pipeline in both countries.

(AP)

IMF Delays $40 Million Croatia Loan

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund decided on Friday to postpone the release of a $40 million credit to Croatia in a bid to convince Zagreb to live up to the terms of the Dayton Peace Pact, U.S. officials said.

"We have begun to see some more serious efforts by Croatia," Robert Gelbard, U.S. President Bill Clinton's special representative for the region, told Reuters. "They need to do much, much more."

The decision by the IMF board came despite growing uneasiness among some European and other nations that such a move could lead to the politicization of the fund.

The $40 million is the second tranche of a $486 million, three-year IMF loan for Croatia approved by the IMF earlier this year. Zagreb has fulfilled all the economic conditions set out under the loan agreement.

In a statement released in Zagreb, the Croatian Central Bank said the IMF decision would not seriously affect the country's finances.

"The denial of the expected credit tranche will not have a direct significant impact on financial conditions of Croatia," the Central Bank said, noting the country has $4.7 billion in foreign currency reserves.

Although the bank said the IMF had postponed release of the tranche indefinitely, monetary sources here said the board agreed to take up the issue again in the fall, possibly on Sept. 10 but no later than Oct. 10.

U.S. officials listed a number of areas where they believe that Croatia is not living up to the terms of the 1995 Dayton peace agreement, including turning in war criminals and allowing freedom of movement for refugees.

A senior treasury official, who declined to be named, said there was broad support on the IMF board for the decision to delay consideration of the release of the loan.

However, some monetary sources, who also requested anonymity, voiced concern at the move. While agreeing with the goal of getting Croatia to comply with the Dayton Peace Accord, they questioned whether this was the best way to do that.

(Reuter)

North Korea Says Drought Caused 'Catastrophic' Economic Damage



TOKYO — An ongoing drought has caused "catastrophic" damage to North Korea's economy, already battered by massive floods in 1995 and 1996, the country's official news agency reported.

"Unprecedentedly abnormal weather is exerting a catastrophic influence upon all sectors of the national economy," said the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored here.

"Some 290,000 hectares have been damaged in the country as of July 21. The grain loss from the hectares is expected to be 704,300 tons," Pyongyang's mouthpiece said.

North Korea has experienced a 50-day heat wave with no rain throughout the country, and many of its water reservoirs have dried up, it said.

More serious is damage in north and south Phyonggan, north and south Hwanghae and Kangwon Provinces and other areas hit by a long drought spell since May 31, the KCNA said.

"Devastated dry field crops, including early-ripening maize which is harvested in July and August, has rendered the food shortage all the more serious," it said.

The drought also killed more than 237,000 domestic animals and burned 46,000 hectares of forests, the news agency said.

North Korea, suffering from chronic famine following floods over the past two summers, has been largely dependent on foreign food aid to feed its population.

(AFP)

World Bank Approves $70mn Loan to Azerbaijan

MOSCOW — The World Bank Friday approved the release of a $70 million loan to Azerbaijan, Interfax news agency reported citing bank officials in the Azeri capital Baku.

The "structural reform" loan, which is financed by the world bank's International Development Association (IDA), will be paid out in two equal tranches in mid-1997 and early 1988.

It is to be used to help Azerbaijan restore its economy and bolster the private sector and will be repaid in line with ida standards.

The World Bank has already extended $185 million in loans to Azerbaijan.

Preparations are underway to provide another $40 million for reforming the nation's healthcare system and finance reconstruction in territories currently occupied by Armenian forces, Interfax said.

Azeri and Armenian forces fought over the ethnic-Armenian enclave of Nagorny-Karabakh from 1988 to 1994, which left an estimated 20,000 dead and large areas of Azerbaijan under Armenian control.

But Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian said earlier this month that Baku and Yerevan had reached a compromise on the enclave, which would remain secret until a deal was signed.

All World Bank loans to Azerbaijan are extended at a standard IDA rate of 0.75 percent over 35 years with a 10-year grace period.

Azerbaijan joined the World Bank in 1992 and the IDA in 1995.

(AFP)

Kazakh Capital Leaves Would-Be Settlers Cold

AKMOLA — Strangers coming to this windswept, conspicuously Soviet-era town built on marshes amid seemingly endless steppe, find it hard to believe it will become Kazakhstan's new capital in a matter of months.

Yet the move is already reality for the former Soviet Republic's political elite. Some ministries have moved from the current capital, Almaty. President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Parliament could be in Akmola by October.

The town is blown from all sides by winds that make life unbearable for many residents in winter when temperatures often fall to minus 40 degrees celsius (-40 fahrenheit).

In midsummer, the baking heat seldom dips below 30 degrees (86 degrees fahrenheit) and clouds of mosquitos from the surrounding marshes gnaw any living creature incessantly from spring to autumn.

Bustling business activity in Almaty is in striking contrast to Akmola, which is more sleepy provincial town than a seat of power and government.

Yet Vladimir Boiko, aide to the mayor of Akmola, told Reuters: "In June, Nazarbayev said he would move to the new capital by October 10."

The ministries of agriculture, transport and justice have already moved to this city with its population of 300,000, lying some 1,200 km (750 miles) northwest of Almaty, once Alma-Ata.

"We always felt Akmola would become a capital...I think that before the president moves to Akmola all vitally important state structures will have settled here," said Boiko, an enthusiastic proponent of the move, echoing the official optimism.

Geopolitics — Main Official Reason for the Move

"The main reason for the move is a geopolitical one. The country's sovereignty demands that the capital should be in central Kazakhstan," said Boiko.

Like other top officials in the vast central Asian state, he is aware of how close Almaty is to the Chinese border.

Yet he avoids mentioning China, whose huge population, economic growth and spreading political influence is a concern for sparsely populated Kazakhstan, where 16.7 million people inhabit an area five times the size of France.

"No matter how good our relations with our neighbors, the capital must be in the center of the country," Boiko said.

Another reason for the move is that Almaty — already tagged by the official press as "the southern capital" — lies in the shadow of the geologically young Tien Shan mountains. Scientists say the city of 1.5 million is earthquake-prone.

Almaty's heavy industrial pollution may also have weighed in the decision by Nazarbayev, who has run the republic since Soviet days, to move to Akmola.

New Kazakh Capital — a Huge Potemkin Village?

In view of the planned move, central Akmola is witnessing a whirlwind of activity among construction firms that can baffle both strangers and long-standing residents.

"A new image for the new capital!" screams a poster on Akmola's main thoroughfare.

The dilapidated Soviet-era hotel Moscow is being rebuilt — and will become Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry. The current local council building will house the government and a former reserch institute the Kazakh Parliament.

A Turkish firm is building a five-star hotel — to be known as the Hotel Astana or capital.

Yet otherwise little seems to have changed.

"You want to go to central Akmola? ah yes, that's where the all the showing off starts," said taxi driver Alexander.

On the main street, dull five-storey apartment buildings hastily put up in the 1960s are having their facades covered in gleaming plastic. But their backyards remain as drab as before.

"This is a real Potemkin village. Everybody knows that Nazarbayev won't look at the backs of houses," one local journalist said. Grigory Potemkin, favorite of Catherine the Great, erected splendid false facades to impress the 18th century empress as she toured poverty-stricken new territories.

Officials, Foreigners Not Rushing to New Capital

Despite the official arguments for the move, Kazakh officials, as well as foreign diplomats and business people are reluctant to move from Almaty to sleepy Akmola.

In the most recent case, Senator Daulet Sembayev — co-author of Kazakhstan's much-praised pension reform plans — resigned after parliamentary leaders decided the legislature would move to Akmola in October.

Foreign diplomats are also reluctant to move.

"We will probably have one person sitting in a flat in Akmola on a rotation basis," one Western diplomat told Reuters.

Boiko conceded the process of resettling diplomatic missions to "the northern capital" would be "a very long process".

"We have already carved out lots of land for embassies and foreign companies," said Boiko, but only five embassies, including Russia and Kyrgyzstan, have claimed their areas.

Offices of large Western companies, feeling in their element amid Almaty's hustle and bustle, are also scared by the move.

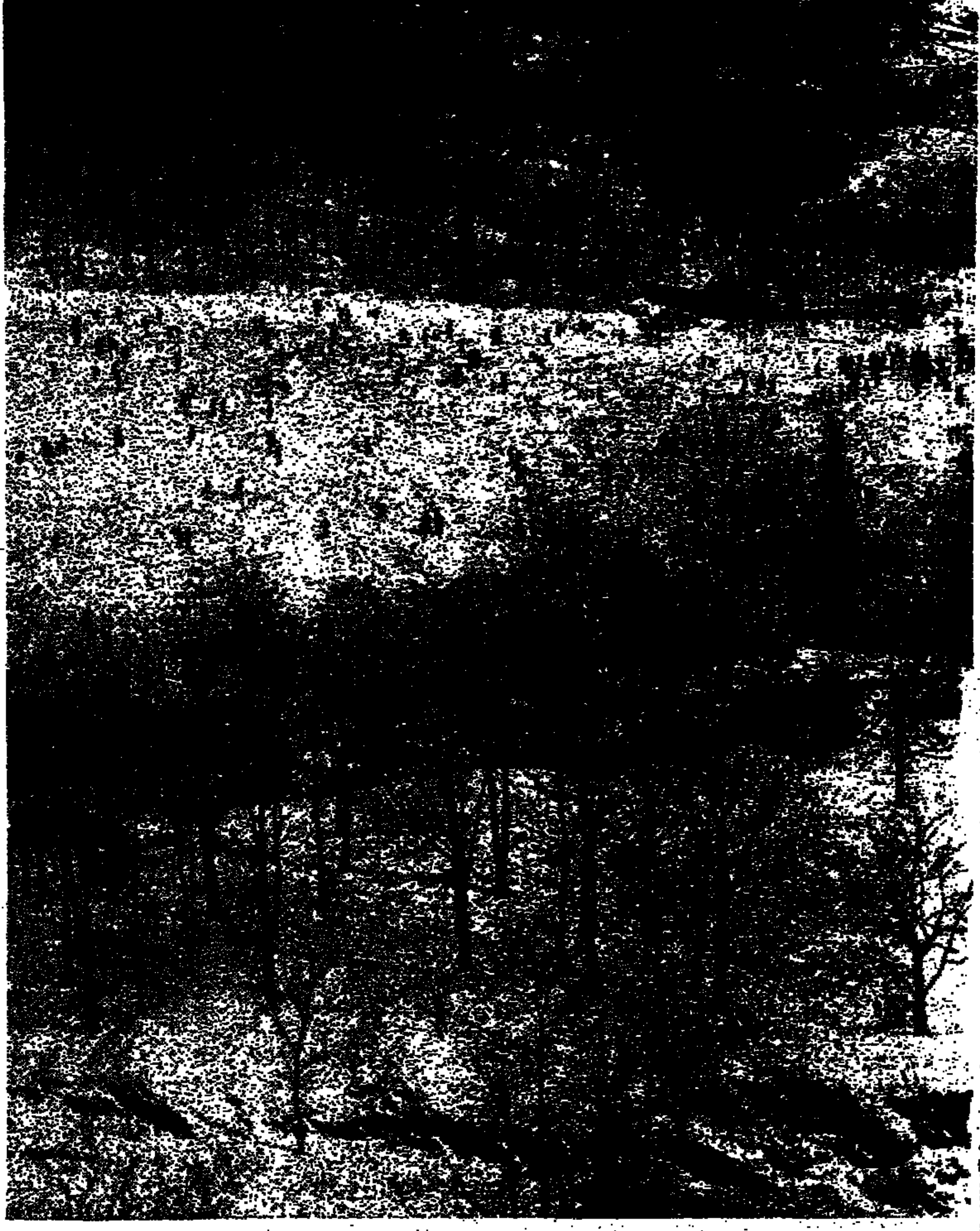
"There's no way I'm going there. Hopefully, this will be a problem for my successor," said an executive at a large Western company involved in developing Kazakhstan's rich oil reserves.

Even many Akmola locals are critical of their home town.

"Are those bigwigs from the government and foreigners really stupid enough to move to th[e] hole?" said Gulnara, a waitress.

Above all, the word "Akmol[a]" — translated from Kazakh [as] "White Grave" — sounds like [an] omen for many, although so[me] Kazakh linguists translate it as more pleasing "White Plenty".

(Reut[er])



Cook Shoots Waitress in Row Over Poached Eggs

SAN FRANCISCO — A short-order cook shot a waitress to death after they had a heated argument over poached eggs, police said on Friday.

The waitress, 47-year-old Helen Menicou, was shot and killed on Thursday by a cook she worked with at the Pinecrest diner in downtown San Francisco, police said.

Hashem Zayed, the 59-year-old cook, was arrested and booked for the killing. Police said he has confessed.

The bizarre shooting was prompted by an argument on Wednesday over an order for poached eggs, police said.

Zayed offered to prepare the order for a customer even though the dish did not appear on the menu. Menicou objected and publicly scolded the short-order cook, saying he should stick to items on the menu.

"There were probably other things, but the poached egg was the last straw," San Francisco police Lt. Dave Robinson said.

When Zayed returned to work early on Thursday, he shot Menicou several times with a semi-automatic handgun, police said. She was pronounced dead at San Francisco general hospital a short time later.

(Reuter)

Burma to Hold Mid-Year Gems Auction

BANGKOK — Burma's military junta will hold a mid-year gems auction in Rangoon, an official announcement said late Friday.

The auction sponsored by state-owned Myanmar gems enterprise is scheduled to be held in October for foreign traders, it said.

The Burmese military regime which has ruled the country for nearly nine years has a monopoly on the sale of precious stones and jewellery.

It sold more than five million dollars worth of precious stones and jade carving in previous auction in March.

(AFP)

Authorities Search for Ties Between Versace Killer, Houseboat Owner

MIAMI BEACH, Florida — Police were searching Friday for possible links between Andrew Cunanan and the German owner of the houseboat where the suspected killer of Gianni Versace committed suicide.

Boat owner Tortsten Reineck was interviewed by the FBI in Las Vegas on Thursday, officials said. Reineck, 49, is a man of many faces, and a tax evader who has lived in Florida off and on since 1992.

Both Reineck and Cunanan were class-conscious partygoers, both made up stories pretending to be wealthier than they were and both were on the run from the law.

"This is something that is obviously uppermost in our mind, and obviously we will continue to seek an improvement in their conditions", the spokesman added.

Police want to know if Hamburg-born Reineck knew Cunanan and whether he knowingly hid him on his houseboat.

They meanwhile have obtained a search warrant for a safe found on the houseboat.

"There is probable cause to believe the safe may contain more evidence related to the five homicides," FBI special agent Keith Evans said.

"My gut feeling is that (Cunanan) knew of this place," Miami Beach police chief Richard Barreto told the Miami Herald of the houseboat.

"Perhaps there's more to this guy and more to this house than the circumstances at first would indicate."

Police have not reported finding evidence that Cunanan forced his way into the houseboat.

"If we find that someone has been harboring (Cunanan), we'll proceed against him criminally," warned FBI special agent Paul Philip.

Cornered after a cross-country killing spree, Cunanan, a gay hustler known for a fascination with the finer things in life and men who could pay for them, took his o[wn] life Wednesday to avoid capture, police said.

The string of murders attributed to him began April 29 with two murders in Minnesota, one of a friend and the other of one of his ex-lovers. He was also suspected in the deaths of a wealthy Chicago developer, a cemetery worker in New Jersey and, on July 15, designer Versace.

According to acquaintances, the ponytailed German moved [to] Miami Beach about five years ago. "He came here from Germany looking for investments, and we were one of the first purchases he made," said real estate agent David Ross, who sold the dock spaces for the houseboat to Reineck for a cashiers check of 150,000 dollars.

Reineck claimed to be ambassador of an unrecognized country called the principality of sealand, Ross said. His license plate sported the claim that he was a count.

"He drove a Rolls Royce," Miami Beach real estate agent Mik[e] Stiber said. "The guy loved to brag and put on airs that he was very wealthy."

(AFP)

Britain "Concerned" Over Nurses' Jail Condition in Saudi Arabia

LONDON — The Foreign Office said Friday it is "concerned" about conditions at a Saudi Arabian prison where two British nurses are being held while facing a murder trial.

A spokesman said that after reports described Dammam Central Prison as "primeval" new efforts were being made to get the Saudis to move Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan.

Deborah Parry, 38, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, have been held in the all-women prison since they were arrested last December and charged with murdering Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford, 55.

A foreign office spokesman said: "We have made a request to the Saudi authorities on the subject of the conditions in the prison, but they are yet to respond.

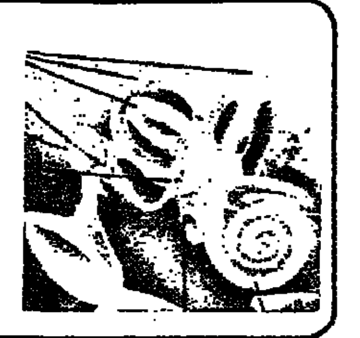
Jonathon Ashbee, Deborah Parry's brother-in-law, who is to fly to Saudi Arabia as the the case nears a verdict, said both nurses are suffering sickness and diarrhoea and need hospital treatment.

(AFP)

هكذا من الأصل







American Cancer Society Voices Concern About Tobacco Industry Deal

WASHINGTON — The American Cancer Society sharply criticized Thursday a landmark deal between U.S. states and the tobacco industry and offered counter-proposals to safeguard public health.

"The American Cancer Society supports the right settlement, but this is not that settlement," said American Cancer Society chairman George Dessart.

"There are major elements ... that will require substantial revision for the agreement to succeed in its more important potential benefit to public health, reducing tobacco use and therefore tobacco-caused disease and death," Dessart said.

Under the deal, which must be approved by President Bill Clinton and the Republican-controlled Congress, the industry would accept tough government regulation of cigarettes and, over 25 years, pay 368.5 billion dollars in damages to defray public costs of smoking-related illnesses.

In exchange, dozens of U.S. states would drop their lawsuits against the industry, future class-action suits would be prohibited, and awards from individual suits would be capped at an aggregate five billion dollars yearly.

But in a report released here Thursday the American Cancer Society criticized the reduction in the Food and Drug Administration's control over nicotine levels in cigarettes under the deal announced in June.

The organization also cast doubt on the clause requiring tobacco companies to reduce the number of young smokers by 42 percent in five years and 67 percent over 10 years were too light.

"There is no economic incentive to ensure the industry will meet the targets," the report says.

Instead, the cancer society recommends that the two billion dollar maximum be lifted from the fines facing tobacco companies which fail to prevent young people from lighting up.

The cancer society also proposes a two-dollar-a-box federal tax on cigarettes, the publication of all the industry's research on smoking risks and leeway for individual states to pass tougher anti-smoking laws than those adopted by Congress.

The deal was reached June 20 after nearly three months of talks between states' attorneys general and RJR Nabisco, Philip Morris, and British American tobacco unit Brown and Williamson.

(AFP)

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

Believe It or Not!

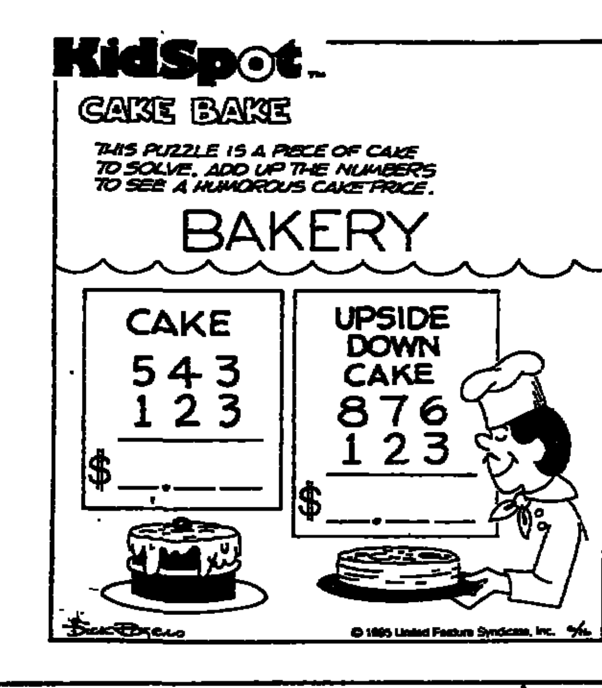
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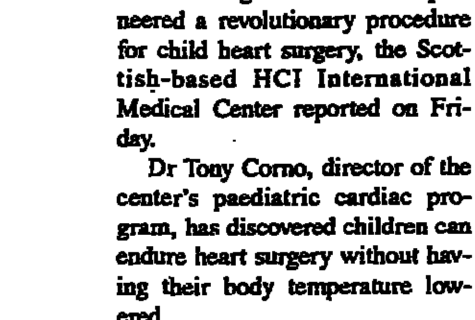


UK Surgeon in Breakthrough on Child Heart Surgery

LONDON — A Scottish-based cardiac surgeon based has pioneered a revolutionary procedure for child heart surgery, the Scottish-based HCI International Medical Center reported on Friday.

Dr Tony Corno, director of the center's paediatric cardiac program, has discovered children can endure heart surgery without having their body temperature lowered.

(Contd. on Pg. 14)



THOUGHT

Silence and modesty are very valuable qualities in conversation.

Michel De Montaigne

PRAYER

Noon	13:11
Evening	20:36
Dawn (tomorrow)	04:26
Sunrise (tomorrow)	06:07

Human Virus Could Be Cause of Diabetes

GENEVA — A newly-discovered virus hidden in the human genetic system could be responsible for diabetes by prompting an attack by the body's natural defences on the cells that produce insulin, Swiss researchers have found.

The team led by Bernard Conrad and Bernard Mach of Geneva, aided by colleagues from Zurich and Turin in Italy, say the discovery has important implications for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of the disease and others like it.

Their discovery is reported in the latest issue of the U.S. scientific journal *Cell*.

According to the Swiss team, a so-called retrovirus which exists in the human genome can produce a molecule dubbed "superantigen," which over-stimulates lymphocytes, key cells in the immune system.

The lymphocytes attack the cells in the pancreas which produce insulin, the hormone which regulates blood sugar levels and whose absence provokes diabetes.

The role played by retroviruses, transmitted in hereditary fashion from distant ancestors, in causing diseases is of *increasing interest. They* have been blamed for disorders which include AIDS, leukemia, multiple sclerosis and problems of the nervous system.

(AFP)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1933 — Assyrian Christians are massacred in Iraq.

1941 — Japanese forces land in Indochina during World War II.

1953 — Korean armistice is signed at Panmunjom.

1954 — Britain and Egypt agree on terms ending 72 years of British control of Suez Canal.

1965 — U.S. planes carry out first attacks against anti aircraft missile sites in North Vietnam.

1978 — UN Security Council endorses Western plan for ending guerilla warfare in South West Africa and making it independent as new Black African state of Namibia.

1987 — Riot police in Sri Lanka clash with Sinhalese Buddhists demonstrating against peace plan aimed at ending bloody rebellion by Tamil Hindus.

1990 — Philippine miners rescue two people who had been trapped for 11 days following hotel collapse during earthquake that struck Baguio, killing at least 1,600.



DENNIS THE MENACE

by Hank Ketcham



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by Michael A. Petti, M.D.



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Letters	Scoring	
F4 A1 E1 U1 T1 L1 D2		RACK 1
L1 G2 N1 H4 R1 I1 U1		RACK 2
T1 D2 O1 O1 H4 M3 E1	4th Letter Double	RACK 3
H4 S1 S1 A1 A1 S1 Y4	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

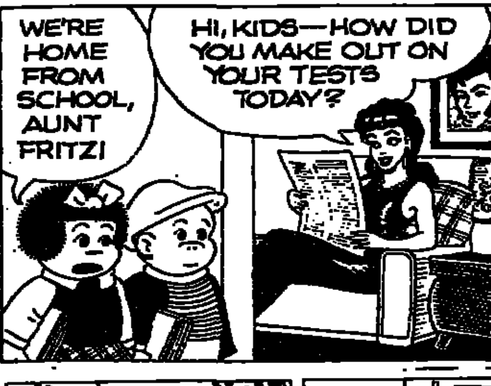
6-24-97

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

Word	Rack	Score
J8 E1 R1 B3 O1 A1	RACK 1	31
I1 N1 H4 E1 R1 I1 T1	RACK 2	60
R1 I1 B3 B3 O1 N1	RACK 3	10
U1 N1 H4 A1 P3 P3 Y4	RACK 4	68

PAR SCORE 105-115 JUDD'S TOTAL 169

6-23-97



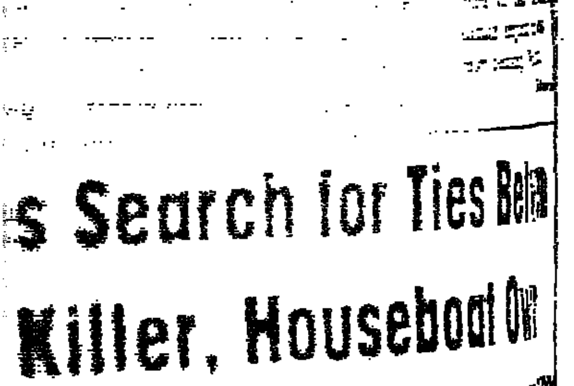






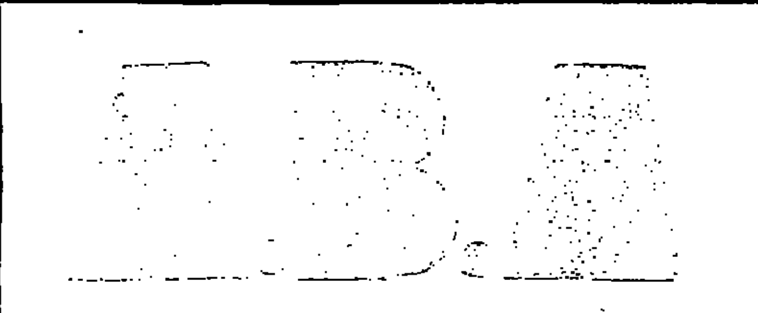






s Search for Ties Bet

Killer, Houseboat Ow



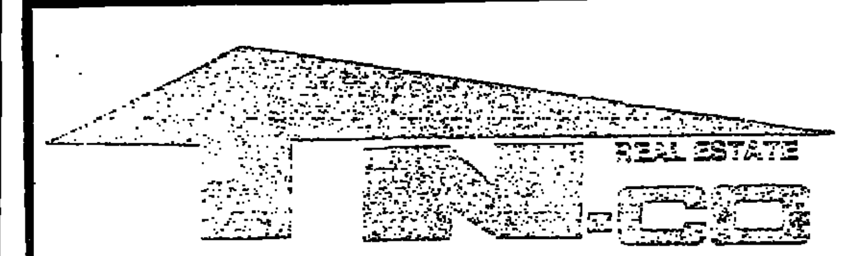
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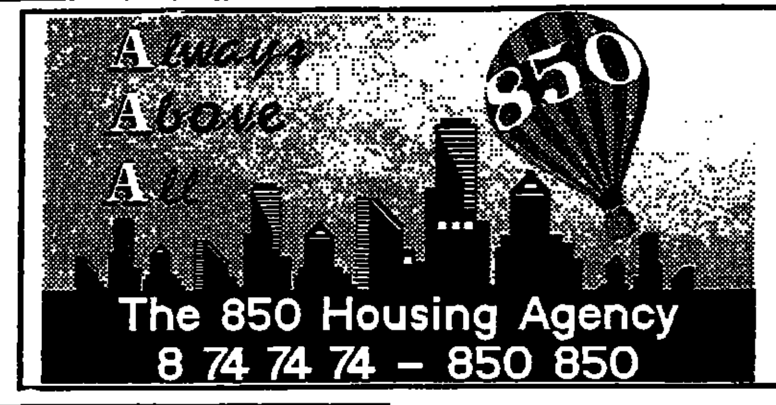
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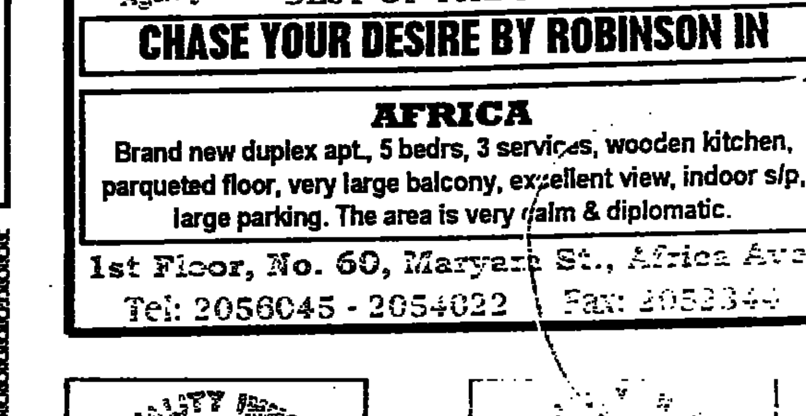
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IN THE NAME OF GOD



T.C.I

TEHRAN, IRAN

TENDER NO. 76/17

Telecommunications Company of Iran (T.C.I) intends to purchase by way of an international tender to satellite telephone terminals as per the technical specifications attached to draft of contract as well as the tender conditions.

The bidders willing to participate in the tender may refer to the secretariat of Purchasing & Contracts Dept. (P & C Dept.) Building No. 5, Room 306, Dr. Shariati Ave., within office hours latest by Sept. 25, 1997 to receive a letter of introduction, deposit the amount of Rls. 20,000 to T.C.I's account No. 90018 with Bank Melli Iran, Shariati Branch and collect the tender documents.

Taking the contents into consideration, the bidders are requested to prepare their offers in 3 sealed envelopes and hand them to the secretariat of P & C Dept. at the above address latest by 14:00 p.m. on Sept. 27, 199: (5,7,76) against a receipt. The details related to the bid bond, the place of envelops opening and other conditions have been stipulated in the tender documents.

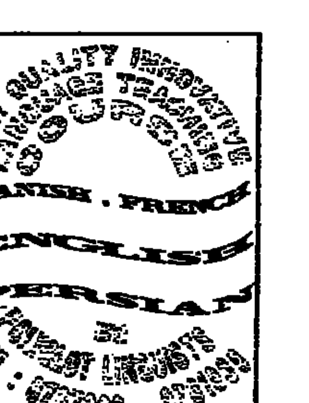
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Western Weaponry and War in the Non-Western World

Part 2

The Unbridled War Against Iraq

For more than a month in early 1991, the U.S. led coalition forces ceaselessly bombed Iraq and Kuwait from the skies. Devastating attacks from American aircraft like the Apache, the F111 and F15E mowed down and blew up Iraqi troops and installations, while the radar-elusive F117 Stealth bomber entered its first full-fledged war in the Persian Gulf. Aerial attacks employed laser-guided bombs in impressive demonstrations of "precision bombing" supported by intelligence satellites operating hundreds of kilometers above the earth. Less 'precise' but equally devastating attacks employed the 15,000 pound BLU-82 bomb and cruise missiles loaded with metal fillings for high-velocity dispersion upon impact. B-52s dropped their payloads and devastated whole sections of enemy territory, mile by mile. The bombardment of Iraq was also conducted from far removed vicinities by land-and sea-based artillery. As in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf war also saw the U.S. employing napalm and FAEs. But it had other weapons besides.

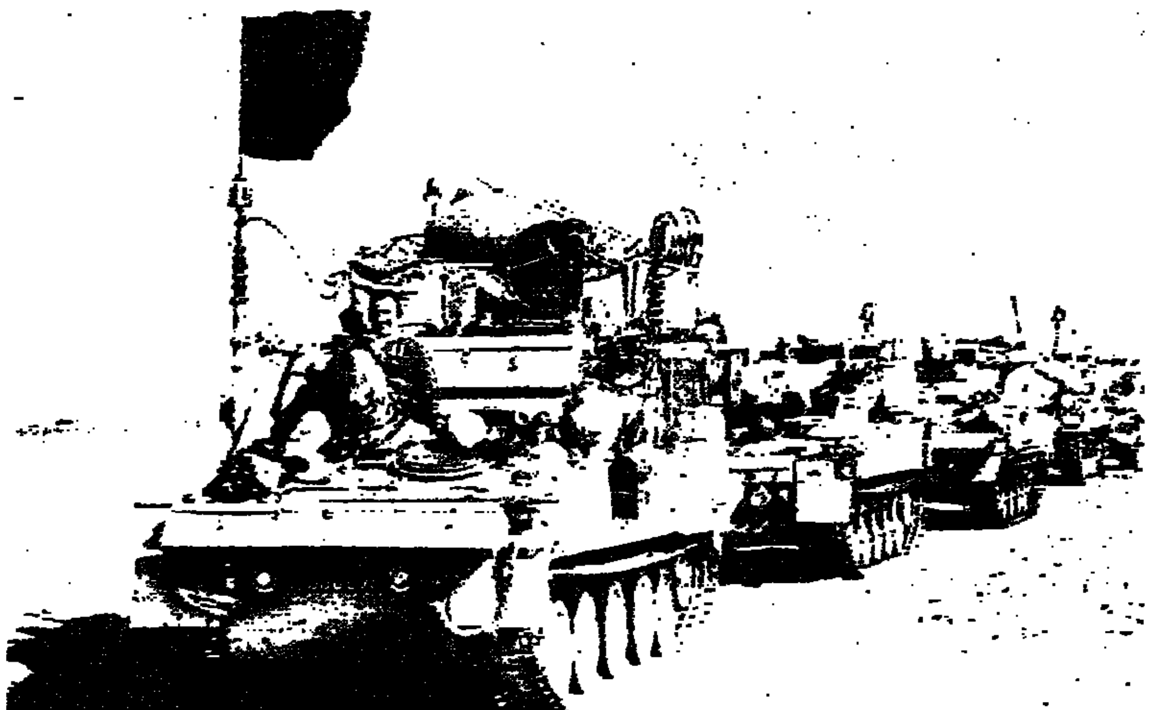
A relatively sophisticated device featured in the array of weaponry used by the U.S. was the depleted uranium armor-piercing shell. Numerous Iraqi soldiers were killed by this device while others suffered from its radioactive effects. James Ridgeway, a commentator on the Persian Gulf war, explained the awesome potential of the weapon which was primarily intended for tanks and other armored vehicles of that sort:

When fired, the uranium bursts into flame and all but liquefies, searing through steel armor like a white hot phosphorescent flare. The heat of the shell causes any diesel fuel vapors in the enemy tank to explode, and the crew inside is burned alive.

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) produced a dossier after the conclusion of the war which confirmed that the U.S. ground forces alone had expended around 5,000 such shells. The U.S. and its allies expended almost ten times that number of depleted uranium devices from the air. The overall radioactive impact on the people of Iraq and Kuwait after the war cannot be accurately ascertained. However, after the war there has been a significant increase in childhood cancers, especially leukemia, among Iraqi children which medical authorities strongly suspect are caused by handling and playing with remnant depleted uranium devices — a fearful legacy bequeathed by the U.S. to the children of Iraq.

Aerial attacks in Iraq itself revealed the gruesome potential of the widely publicized "precision bombing" by the U.S. and its allies. A few months after the Persian Gulf war, *Washington Post* staff writer Barton Gellman reported that, based on the accounts of senior U.S. military officers, "the worst civilian suffering....has resulted not from bombs that went astray but from precision-guided weapons that hit exactly where they were aimed..."





What happened at the Amiriyah bomb shelter in Baghdad on February 13, 1991, perhaps, best illustrates this point. On that day, after a series of U.S. air-raids on various sections of the city, two pinpoint strikes against the shelter took the lives of at least 400 Iraqi civilians. The first bomb blew a gaping fissure in the roof of the shelter. The second attack was more devastating — a stronger explosive device plummeted through the hole in the roof of the shelter, rammed through one floor and exploded at the bottom of the shelter. If there were any who were not immediately killed by the force of these two explosions, they were almost certainly scorched and singed by the fiery conditions in the shelter that charred "[N]early all the bodies...into blackness; in some cases the heat had been so great that entire limbs were burned off"; while others were "so severely burned that their gender could not be determined".

Another weapons, the cluster bomb, was widely deployed by the U.S. during the war. The U.S. often deployed the Rockeye II Mark 20. Weighing more than two hundred kilograms, this cluster bomb dispenses over two hundred bomblets in the space of an acre which explode into half-a-million needle sharp fragments. It has been estimated that four cluster bombs were employed for every sortie flown by the F-16A, a key attack plane of the U.S. Air Force. Other similar explosive devices deployed included "bouncing Betty's", which bounced off the ground and exploded at abdominal level. All such weapons had clear antipersonnel functions. They were designed to cause grievous injuries to the human body and most were lethal within a predetermined radius of shrapnel dispersion.

Killing Without Mercy and Restraint

It is possible to go on citing cruel weapons and methods of killing which have been used in the non-Western world. For the list does not end here. For example, a survey of the U.S. war operations in Indochina as a whole should take into account the thousands and thousands of "bombies" that the U.S. scattered over much of Laos. These bomblets have killed numerous Laotian peasants and children who, even today, are being cut down by the razor sharp fillings that these miniature bombs expend when accidentally disturbed. A comprehensive account of the U.S. war in Korea would, for the same reason, recognize that biological weapons were deployed there by the American forces, as has been verified by an international tribunal. Whole studies could be made of all the instances in which the U.S. has chosen to use the most inhuman weapons against the poorest of the poor in the "Third World".

American intellectual Edward Herman has attempted to provide a deeper significance to these wanton actions of the U.S. He notes that there are "attitudes...long fed into U.S. foreign policy, especially those involving Third World poor an colored peoples. Such people are more easily conquered and killed if they can be regarded as inferior....It is also easy to kill mercilessly if the victims are savages and subhuman. In Vietnam, we killed 'mere gooks', who U.S. officials said don't feel pain like Westerners." This of course affirms what well-known African-American activist and intellectual W.E.B. Du Bois had declared decades ago regarding one of the key characteristics of racism, that "....men [have] striven to conceive of their victims as different from the victors, endlessly different, in soul and blood, strength and cunning, race and lineage". It is somehow easier to destroy the opponent 'mercilessly', when he is conceived as alien to the attacking army, and inferior.

This then is the dehumanizing psychology of war that is supported by U.S. political and military establishment in which there is little or no human feeling for the enemy — especially when the enemy and his community are somehow different and "inferior". This becomes the justification for not extending any compassion or observing any restraint when warring against them. Such is the racially biased orientation of the U.S. when going to war in the non-Western world. Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. attorney-general and also an observer at the World War II Nuremberg trials, gives this interesting account in his *The Fire This Time:*

The fiftieth anniversary of Pearl Harbor revealed President Bush's attitude toward the use of U.S. military power, one shared by nearly all U.S. policy makers since World War II. While he felt Japan should apologize for Pearl Harbor, as it should, he could not conceive of apologizing for incinerating the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki......The notion of apologizing to the Vietnamese, the Filipinos, the Mexicans, the descendants of African slaves or American Indians is alien to the conviction that America is right and chosen to rule.

It is this same institutionalized attitude that sanctions the use of dreadful weapons of war in such instances. What is equally significant is that such attitudes towards the peoples of the non-Western world make the U.S. a racist adversary and therefore a most brutal foe to encounter on the battlefield.

Consider the following comments obtained from American servicemen during the height of the war against Iraq:

-"Say hello to Allah," one American pilot quipped a few seconds before his missile blew to bits the selected target — one among a hundred Iraqi vehicles being attacked by the American Apache helicopters.

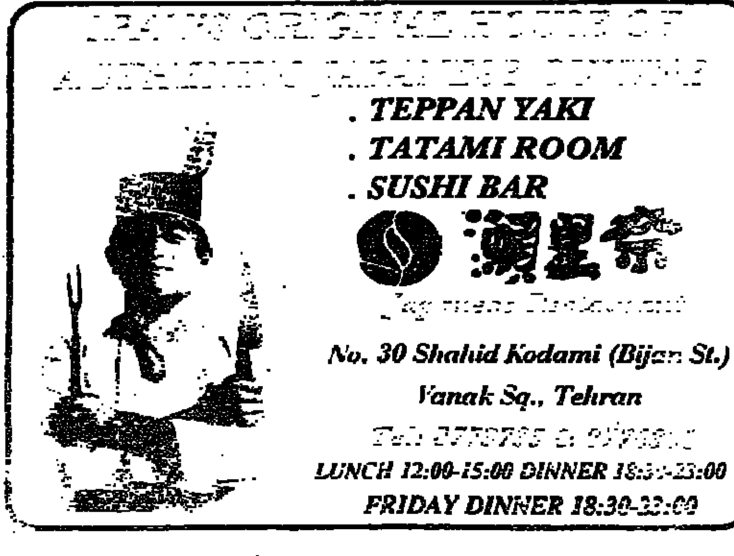
For another American pilot, it was like a "turkey shoot". "It's almost like you flipped on the light in the kitchen at night and the cockroaches start scurrying and we're killing them", declared Colonel Richard White.

"By God, I thought we had shot into a damn farm. Looked like somebody opened the sheep pen", was how one helicopter pilot remembered his slaughter of Iraqi troops.

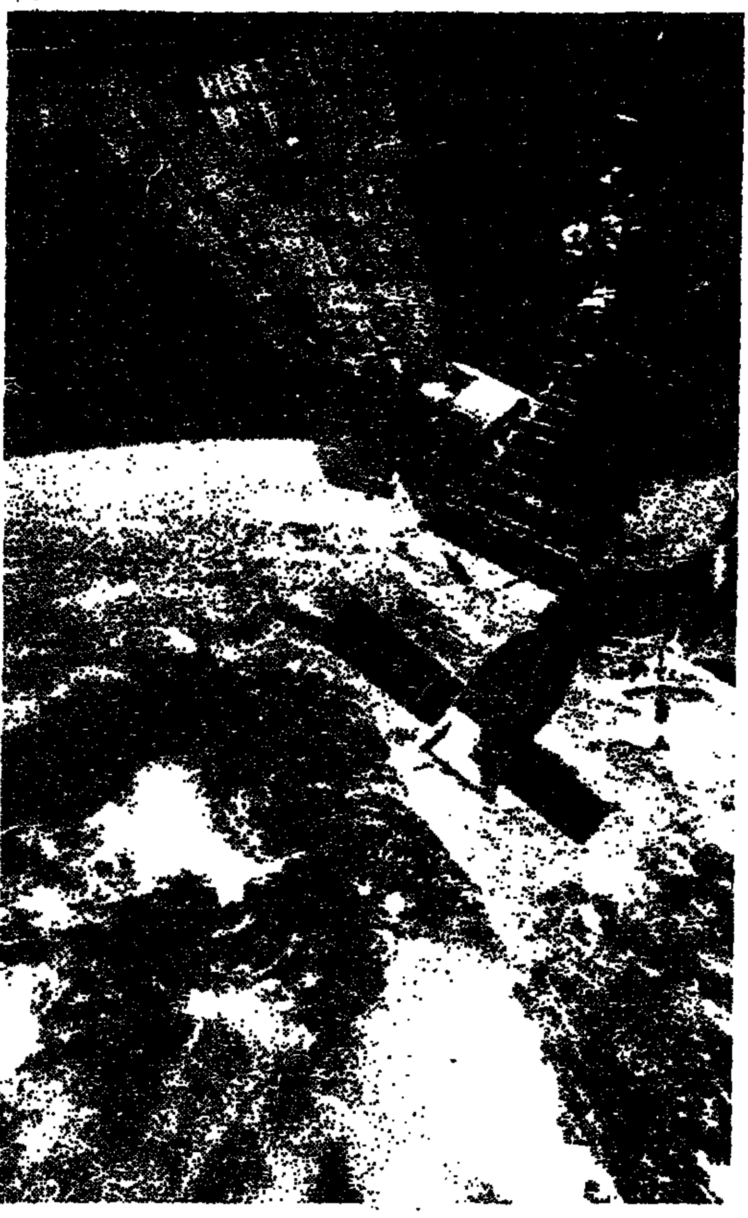
There is something in the casualness of the above comments that seem to indicate the attackers were not really killing human beings — perhaps, more like hunting down fleeing animals. It draws a clear parallel to the killing of "mere gooks" in Vietnam sometime ago — that the Iraqis, like the Vietnamese, deserve no mercy. Such prejudice and bias also lends legitimacy to the use of almost any kind of method of killing, no matter how cruel, against the Iraqis and other "Third World" peoples.

American politicians and the general public, of course, saw the Persian Gulf war mostly in the form of edited TV images which did not and could not convey the full horror of some of the most bloody massacres involving civilians. But even if the war had been televised in some of its most gory moments, one wonders whether it would been enough to overcome the apathy of a large section of the American public towards the plight of an alien community being brutalized by their military — enough to react with horror upon seeing human beings suffer in that way. Could the American antiwar activists have garnered the full support of the public and mobilized them to end the massacre? And would the American political and military leaders have identified with the people's desire to end the suffering of another people far away?

(To be Contd.)



Mir Crew Engaged in Training, Adjustment Exercises Before Return to Earth



MOSCOW — The Russian-American crew of the Mir Space Station engaged in planned experiments and adjustment exercises Thursday ahead of returning to earth from a mission plagued by accidents and malfunctions.

Crew members were putting on the Chibis vacuum costumes, meant to improve blood circulation in their lower bodies so as to help them better adjust to earth's gravity after the weightless conditions of space, said Valery Lyndin, spokesman for Russia's Mission Control Center outside Moscow.

"The costumes look like large goffered pants from which air is gradually pumped out," he said.

Russian cosmonaut Alexander Lazutkin was continuing an experiment linked to sleep study and U.S. astronaut Michael Foale was engaged in his greenhouse research, alongside testing air samples from various sections of the Mir, the spokesman said.

Foale also was expected to hold a conversation with his NASA consultants in the United States, Lyndin added.

Most vital systems aboard the crippled station were functioning normally, according to the Mission Control Center, but important repairs were left for the next crew.

That crew, Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, blasts off Aug. 5 from the Baikonur launching site in Kazakstan and arrives Aug. 7. Lazutkin and his colleague Vasily Tsibliyev are scheduled to come back Aug. 14.

Foale is expected to stay on the station until mid-September.

Medical tests in recent days have indicated that the health of all crew members, including Tsibliyev, who has suffered from an irregular heartbeat, was normal.

Critical repairs of damage caused by a cargo ship that plowed into the space station on June 25, leaving a hole in the Spektr Module, have been left for the next team.

Russian space officials have decided that a fresh crew will be better trained and in better condition to carry out an arduous space walk needed to restore nearly full power to the station.

The new team is also planning a second space walk outside the station to locate and survey the hole caused by the crash. The current Mir crew has not yet seen the puncture, which forced crew members to cut off power produced by the now-depressurized Spektr.

The collision was only the worst of many mishaps that plagued the crew, Tsibliyev and Lazutkin, who have coped with fire, oxygen system breakdowns and power outages since boarding in February. (AP)

Green Groups Refuse to Join Australian Delegation to Climate Talks

CANBERRA, Australia — Leading environmental groups are boycotting the official Australian delegation to international climate change negotiations in Germany next week to protest the government's stance on limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace Australia and World Wide Fund for Nature said Friday it was the first time environmental organizations had refused to take part in an Australian delegation to an international meeting on environmental issues.

"The federal government is holding to ransom the global solution to climate change," Greenpeace Australia Chief Executive Officer Bronwyn Boekenstein said.

"We cannot countenance one of the most irresponsible positions Australia has ever taken on an environmental issue."

Australia has argued against the European Union's push for legally-binding, uniform emission reduction targets.

Instead it is calling for targets that differ according to each developed country to ensure countries which produce coal and other resources, like Australia, are not harmed.

Australian Conservation Foundation Executive Director Jim Downer said the Australian delegation to the Bonn negotiations was effectively pushing for Australia to substantially increase its greenhouse gas emissions.

"Australia's demand flies in the face of the principle that those who cause a pollution problem should take responsibility for cleaning it up," he said.

The groups wrote to Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer to decline his department's invitation to be on the delegation.

"We do not make this decision lightly but have concluded that involvement on the delegation, at this stage, would add unwarranted legitimacy to the federal government's campaign to oppose legally binding international targets and timetables for reducing greenhouse gas emissions," they said in the letter.

Greenpeace spokesman Keith Tarlo said groups would make their voices heard against Australia's position at the Bonn negotiations, which come ahead of the Kyoto Climate Summit later this year where emission targets are expected to be hammered out.

He said if the government did not change its attitude, environment groups would not only refuse to form part of the Australian delegation to Kyoto but would form a separate delegation to the conference to actively campaign against Australia's stand. (AP)

Danish Researchers Say Develop Skin Cancer Cream

COPENHAGEN — Danish researchers say they have developed a cream that delays the onset of skin cancer in laboratory mice and are confident that the product can soon be used on humans.

"In our research on mice, we have been able to successfully delay skin cancer by applying cream after the animals had been subjected to excessive sun," Hans Christian Wulf, dermatologist at Copenhagen's Bispebjerg Hospital, told Reuters on Friday.

"There is every reason to believe that we can easily adapt the cream for use on human beings as a cure against normal forms of basal and squamous cell skin cancer," he said.

Wulf gave no details of the cream, saying his team's research would be published early next year. He did say, however, that it contained a substance which penetrated the skin and changed the enzymes in infected cells.

He said that the cream would be of no use against mole cancer, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, and that so far no tests on humans had been conducted.

"We are currently looking into raising the necessary funds for human tests. There are realistic possibilities for the project," Wulf said.

Wulf said that the incidence of skin cancer had doubled in the past 40 years in Denmark, where last year 230 people died of the disease — the most widespread form of cancer after breast cancer for women and lung cancer for men.

He said that there had been a similar rise in the occurrence of skin cancer in the post-war era in the United States, where the disease was now the most common type of cancer. (Reuter)

NASA Robot to Hunt for Meteorites in Antarctica

SANTIAGO, Chile — Scientists plan to use a NASA robot to search Antarctica for meteorites from Mars in a bid to prove there was life on the red planet, experts from the Carnegie-Mellon University said on Thursday.

The scientists will use the four-wheeled nomad robot, which is practicing for space exploration in the Chilean Atacama Desert, said Professor William Whittaker, director of the Earth Robot Center at the Pittsburgh, Pa. University.

"We hope to find an important quantity of meteorites to prove there was life on Mars," Whittaker told a news conference.

"It will be a great technical challenge for the robot to find meteorites," he added. "We will have to develop new sensors ... to help it find objects on the surface and in the ice."

The robot is due to start its search in December, at the beginning of the southern hemisphere summer, with the mission expected to last for three years.

The craft, the size of a small car and bristling with antenae and cameras, is a prototype of a machine that NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) plans eventually to send on unmanned spaceships to the moon and Mars.

Some of the experiments on its 124-mile (200 km) desert trek, which is due to finish at the end of this month, are designed to prepare the craft for the Antarctic mission.

Last year NASA researchers stirred the science community when they said an ancient meteorite found in Antarctica contained evidence of fossil life on Mars. But doubt has been cast on their findings by other scientists.

Most of the 15,000 meteorites found in the world have been discovered in the frozen wastes of Antarctica, where the ice makes them easier to spot. (Reuter)

Nile Waters to Be Diverted to Sinai Desert Next Year

CAIRO — Water from the Nile River will be diverted to the Sinai from next year as part of a huge government development plan for the desert peninsula, Irrigation Minister Mahmud Abu Zeid said Thursday.

Abu Zeid told the opposition Al-Wafd Party newspaper that an initial target of this month for the irrigation scheme had been postponed because of delays in building Al-Sallam Canal which will carry the water to the Sinai.

The goverment will also launch a 15-million-dollar project next year to build wells and dams in the Sinai to prevent water waste in the desert, he said.

The Egyptian government wants to boost the Sinai's population from 270,000 to 3.3 million by creating new towns, industrial and tourist zones with the help of Nile waters. (AFP)

New Software to Control Cybersmut Is Big Hit at Chicago Cyberfest

CHICAGO — A new, user-friendly software program to enable parents to keep internet smut away from their children was unveiled at the internet world trade show which ended here Friday.

Cyber Sentinel, developed by Chicago-area Company Security Software Systems (SSS), was a big hit with the thousands of parents who flocked to the three-day show, held in Chicago's Cavernous McCormick Place Exhibition Hall.

But unlike previous existing smut filter programs such as Cyberpatrol, Surf Watch or Net Nanny, "Cyber Sentinel is not a (adult) site blocker," said SSS engineer Don Jonson.

Site blocking denies access to whole sections of the internet, blocking the good as well as the bad. If an adult site is not registered by a software blocking company, information can still be accessed.

Cyber Sentinel, which monitors content from any source regardless of internet site's address, acts as a real-time watch guard that continuously monitors the internet or other online services for incoming and outgoing material that violated predefined usage and language.

The program's owner can also program or add selected words and phrases to be blocked.

Earlier this month, President Bill Clinton announced an agreement with the computer industry aimed at giving parents control over access to Cybersmut.

The move came after the U.S. Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional a Clinton-backed law that sought to ban indecent material on the internet. (AFP)

Mars Pathfinder Transmits First Panoramic Shot of Red Planet

WASHINGTON — The Pathfinder probe resumed transmitting data to earth Tuesday, sending a spectacular panoramic view of Mars in full color, NASA officials said here.

The picture, unveiled at a press conference, shows the vast plain called Ares Vallis, its surface striated by ancient floodwaters, officials at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory said.

"This plain was rubbed off by the flood episodes of water coming through this area," said Peter Smith of the University of Arizona.

"We can also see this tortured soil with a lot of marks. Some of these marks are created by wind blown dust," Smith said.

The technical problems which created a two-day breakdown in communications have been resolved, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

"All things are working just wonderfully on Mars," mission official Matthew Golombek said. (AFP)



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JULY 27, 1997

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UN Repatriates 10,000 Refugees From Ethiopia to Somaliland

NAIROBI — The United Nations has repatriated more than 10,000 out of 280,000 Somali refugees living in Ethiopia for the past 10 years, UN officials said Friday.

In a statement released here, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said the Somali refugees in Ethiopia had fled northwest Somalia, now the self-proclaimed republic of Somaliland, in 1988 and been living in the Ogaden region of eastern Ethiopia.

The UNHCR had since 1992 sent 115,000 Somalis home from Kenya. But the repatriation from the Ethiopian camps had been on-hold until this year, when it finally got underway in February with a pilot program.

UNHCR staff have been based in Somaliland since 1992 and have overseen over $13 million worth of development projects over that period under which wells, schools, hospitals and other community facilities were rehabilitated, the statement said.



The statement said that over 1997, the UNHCR had wanted to spend $26.6 million in rehabilitation and repatriation projects in Somalia, with special focus on Somaliland.

However, donor response has been disappointing. Only 11.9 $million have been received to date, leaving a shortfall of some $15 million that had been required through to the end of the year.

"With the pilot phase of the repatriation operation completed and 10,000 refugees returned, the UNHCR now desperately needs the remaining $15 million to start the full-scale repatriation of 30,000 refugees planned before the year's end, and to keep the ball rolling as it hopes to repatriate 60,000 refugees from Ethiopia over 1998," the statement concluded.

(AFP)

Amnesty Says Tajiks, Hazaras Being Held in Afghan Capital



LONDON— Amnesty International said Friday it had word of the arrest and imprisonment of nearly 2,000 ethnic Tajiks and Hazara men during Taliban sweeps of the Afghan capital Kabul and suburbs.

In a statement from its London headquarters, the human rights group said most of the detainees were non-combatants, and had been picked up at their homes in the Khair Khana, Karte Parwan, Char Kala and Dasht Barchi districts.

They were being held at Pul-e Charkhi prison, near Kabul, in deplorable conditions with limited access to food, Amnesty International said, adding that some had experienced ill treatment in detention.

Most of the men were family breadwinners, and were being held by the Taliban to intimidate the rest of the community and discourage family members from joining anti-Taliban forces outside the capital.

Amnesty International called for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the detainees, whom it described as prisoners of conscience.

(AFP)

Thailand Prepares for Cambodian Refugee Influx

BANGKOK — The Thai Public Health Ministry on Saturday said it had ordered medical teams at the Cambodian border to prepare for a possible influx of Cambodian refugees, many sick with malaria.

Thousands of Cambodians who fled this month's fighting between the rival troops of ousted first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and strongman Hun Sen, were waiting at points along the border in the hope of crossing into Thailand, ministry said in a statement.

The Thai border has been sealed, but Thai military officials said they would allow Cambodians to enter Thailand if the fighting worsened.

Refugees who are extremely ill are being admitted to one Thai hospital near the border, and doctors in Cambodia said they would ask permission to send more of their sickest patients across the border for treatment.

"Many of them are infected with malaria and other kinds of sicknesses, (so) the Public Health Ministry has ordered medical teams on the scene to prepare medicine and personnel to help those people," the statement said.

Ministry records said that 49 Cambodian patients had already been admitted to hospital in Thailand's Kab Cherng district in Surin Province. The patients included 16 malaria cases and eight people with battle wounds. The remainder were suffering from flu or diarrhoea.

More than 23,000 civilians — half of them refugees — are living in the Thai district which borders the town of O'smach in Cambodia. Most of the refugees are women and children, who fled fighting in northern Cambodia and settled in O'smach, which is currently controlled by troops loyal to Ranariddh.

"These people escaped from fighting in their villages and towns, and since Thailand has seized the border, we have to keep them there. But the problem is, we are running short of food and medicine for them," said the town's chief administrator, Rom Thkkha Muny.

Sithy men, a Cambodian doctor who fled Phnom Penh to O'smach one week after Hun Sen's forces drove Ranariddh's men out of the capital, said more than 100 people a day were visiting a makeshift clinic he set up.

"We have no modern medical equipment and medicine here, so those patients who are suffering from serious illnesses will be sent to the hospital inside Thailand," the doctor said.

(Reuter)

British Divorce Rate Falls for First Time This Decade

LONDON — The annual number of divorces in England and Wales has fallen for the first time this decade, according to official figures released Thursday.

Just over 158,000 couples divorced in 1994 — a drop of 4.2 percent on the 1993 figure of 165,000, which was the highest annual total ever recorded. The provisional figure for 1995 is 155,000, a further drop.

There was also a decrease in the number of marriages with just over 291,000 in 1994 — down 2.7 percent on 1993.

The last recorded drop in divorces in England and Wales was in 1989.

(AFP)

China to Support Four-Month UN Haiti Force



UNITED NATIONS — China on Friday dropped its opposition to maintaining UN troops in Haiti as the UN Security Council discussed a new force mandate, diplomats said.

The diplomats said that during closed-door consultations of the 15-member Security Council, Chinese ambassador Qin Huasun told his counterparts that Beijing would "consider favorably the recommendations by the (UN) secretary-general."

UN chief Kofi Annan is recommending a single four-month mandate for a scaled-down UN mission of 1,000 soldiers. A total 1,300 mainly Canadian and Pakistani troops are currently serving in Haiti.

Qin said that China's position took into consideration a request from the Haitian government and Latin American countries.

Haitian President Rene Preval officially asked the Security Council to renew for four more months the UN mandate to bolster his impoverished Caribbean state's fragile democracy.

UN officials had feared that China, which in the past has threatened to veto the mandate of UN forces in Haiti, might pose obstacles again this time.

Russia has also expressed opposition, but a Russian diplomat told AFP on Friday that Moscow was taking "a pragmatic approach" on the issue, as long as other Security Council members agreed that this must be the final mandate.

Qin also stressed that the situation in Haiti "does not pose a threat to international peace and security" and that the peace-keeping tasks of the force have been completed.

Annan wants the UN mission during the next four months to concentrate on training the Haitian police.

Under his proposals, the number of UN-financed troops would be drastically reduced from 500 to 50, while the rest will continue to be bankrolled by Canada and the United States.

The force's name is also to be changed, from the UN support mission in Haiti, to the UN transition mission in Haiti.

The Security Council must vote a resolution on the new force by next Thursday, when the current UNSMIH mandate expires.

(AFP)



CHILDREN'S PAGE



A-MI WEARS A BELL

Kitten A-Mi is growing up and stays near his mummy learning how to catch mice.

One evening A-Misprings into a corner of the room.

He goes to his mummy with a mouse in his mouth. A-Mi is very pleased with himself, and his mummy says proudly: "You're really learning, my dear little A-Mi."

A-Mi blinks his eyes and says: "Now that I'm grown up I can catch my own mice." Mummy says yes, but tells A-Mi he should not be too sure of himself yet.

Now A-Mi really can catch his own mice. There's heardly a mouse that can get away from him.

A-Mi catches a lot of mice, and all his playmates think he's great.

A-Mi also says: "I'm great!"

A little mouse overhears this boast, and knowing A-Mi loves to be flattered, the mouse also says: "My dear A-Mi, you really are great!"

A-Mi turns round and sees it is a mouse praising him. He would normally spring on it and catch it, but today .....

The smart little mouse scampers back into its hole. "Good news, A-Mi loves flattery. Praise him and he won't catch you."

"You don't say," says the papa mouse, getting an idea. "Tomorrow I'll take you all to see this wonderful A-Mi."

The next day the papa mouse and three little ones go with a big package to visit A-Mi.

"My dear A-Mi, you are really great," says the papa mouse. "We want you to be our king and protect us."

"Really?" A-Mi can hardly believe his kitten ears.

"Yes, you're going to be our king. You've got sharp eyes, and you're quick on your feet. You can catch us no matter where we hide!" A-Mi is excited to hear this.

"We've got a gold bell for you, our new king, and we've come to bring it to you," says the papa mouse. A-Mi is really excited. "A gold bell for a king?" says the kitten to himself.

The mice quickly open the package, and there is the bell. "This bell jingles when you put it around your neck. We can hear it, and we'll come running. You needn't go looking for us."

"A wonderful idea!" A-Mi is so happy he doesn't know what to do. He can't get that bell round his neck fast enough.

The mice see how eager A-Mi is and help him put the bell around his neck. "Long live our great king" they shout.

A-Mi jumps for joy. And the b jingles. ....

A-Mi doesn't understand why never sees his mouse "subject. again. Of course they hide then selves safely away as soon as th hear the bell jingle.

Poor kitten A-Mi! He never catches another mouse. With a bell on his neck, what can a kitten do?

The Dentist Is Coming!

Paul Revere did more than warn colonists about the British.

He's also responsible for George Washington's toothy grin. Our first President lost almost all his real teeth by the time he turned 22, and Revere made his wooden replacements.

KidSpot™

1 ACROSS
7 ACROSS A SHORT SLEEP.
9 ACROSS
3 DOWN
4 ACROSS
8 DOWN
6 DOWN
1 DOWN
2 DOWN
5 ACROSS

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ACROSS-1.OSTRICH,4.IGLOO, 5.NUT, 7.NAP, 9.TARGET.
DOWN-1.ONION, 2.TULIP, 3.IRON, 6.TENT, 8.ANT.



Vanessa S. Nasirian
Rezvan Kindergarten
Tehran

Picture Clue Quiz

1 RED AS A ________
2 SLOW AS A _____
3 PRETTY AS A ______
4 LIGHT AS A ______
5 SLY AS A ___
6 FIT AS A ______
7 BUSY AS A ___
8 SHARP AS ____
9 QUIET AS A _____

TOP STUDENTS



Tina Shojaie
Grade 2 Primary School



Mehrnosh Arabestani
Grade 3 Resalat Guidance Schoo



Jasem Khademi
Grade I Primary School



Ghasem Khademi
Grade 5 Primary School





Sahar Hosseini Jedi
Grade 2
Hekmat Primary School



Farzam S. Nasirian
Grade 2
Imam Mousa Sadr
Primary School